

INSIDER GUIDES MELBOURNE

The ultimate guide for international students
in Australia's best student city



AUSSIE LIFE TIPS

Culture, quirks, and
everything in
between

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Disclaimer: All information presented is correct to the best of our knowledge. Businesses and services mentioned were operating at the time of publication. We apologise if any have moved, closed or their services have altered in the interim. The State of Victoria, through Study Melbourne (ABN 83 295 188 244), has supported the printing and distribution of Insider Guide Melbourne 2025 (Guide). Study Melbourne has no affiliation or association with the publisher of the Guide. The content of the Guide does not, and is not intended to, constitute advice from Study Melbourne. Study Melbourne excludes and disclaims all liability for any damage or loss that you or any other person may incur as a result of reliance on, or use of, the information provided or referred to in this Guide (including through hyperlinks. Any link to the Study Melbourne Website is subject to the website's terms and conditions). Study Melbourne assumes no liability for any express or implied warranties or guarantee provided by the publisher with respect to the Guide.

WELCOME

Regularly voted one of the most liveable cities in the world, there's a lot to love about Melbourne.

From the carefully gridded city centre, with its colourful laneways and beautiful, historical buildings, to its busy student suburbs, international eateries and lush green spaces, there's so much to explore.

Plus, Melbourne's thriving arts and culture scene is totally unique, and it's the epicentre of Australia's sporting scene. Then, there's the incredible opportunities that await you if you've decided to live in any of Victoria's welcoming regional cities.

Whatever study journey you've decided to pursue, congratulations! You're in for an exciting experience.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

In the spirit of reconciliation, we acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their Elders past, present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

SUPPORTED BY:



OUR TEAM *(and their favourite things to do in Melbourne...)*

PRODUCTION

Senior Creative Director - Sam Trezise
Cocktails at Caretaker's Cottage.

Creative Director - Alex Craddock
Going to the State Library and saying, "hey, do you know which music video was filmed here?"

Project Manager - Raphaella Oest
Grabbing some picnic supplies from Queen Vic Market and heading to Carlton Gardens.

Project Manager - Grace Teoh
Slurping on matcha ramen noodles at Mensho Tokyo.

Project Coordinator - Baily Hill
Coffee at Blackcat in the morning, beer at Blackcat in the afternoon.

Writer - Kate Millar
Sipping a coffee at South Melbourne Market.

Writer - Madeleine Osbourne
Frolicking up and down High Street, Northcote.

Senior Graphic Designer - John Hargreaves
Jumping between Bodriggy and Range in Abbotsford.

Graphic Designer - Abby Hanlon-Barnett
Visiting the Old Melbourne Gaol and coffee at ST. Ali.

Director of Photography - Josh Trezise
Admiring the Melbourne Arts Centre Spire.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Managing Director - James Martin
Malaysian Laksa House for lunch followed by a coffee at Little Rogue.

MELBOURNE

Welcome to Australia's Best Student City

You've made a great choice by coming to study in Melbourne and Victoria. As an international student, you are a part of our vibrant community where you can experience a world-class education, build lifelong friendships and launch your global career.

Study Melbourne is a Victorian Government initiative for international students. We're here to help you settle into student life, find extra support and work towards your goals.



CONNECT WITH US



1800 056 449



info@studymelbourne.vic.gov.au



studymelbourne.vic.gov.au



Study Melbourne Hub - 17 Hardware Lane, Melbourne

STUDY MELBOURNE
Victoria

UNMISSABLE HIGHLIGHTS



“What I truly love about life in Melbourne is the balance it provides. It’s a place where you can grow personally and professionally while also having ample opportunities to relax and have fun.”

Nischal
Central Queensland
University
LinkedIn: /in/
thenischalniroula/



“I indulge in my favourite pastime on weekends: exploring Melbourne’s timeless charm. Whether it’s unwinding by the beach, feeling the ocean breeze, watching the sun melt into the horizon, or wandering through the suburbs and marvelling at old preserved buildings steeped in history, I find peace and wonder in every step.”

Moulishri
Deakin University
LinkedIn: /in/moulishri-
shukla/

“Melbourne weekends are for seaside escapes! In winter, nothing beats the cozy comfort of a hearty parma while listening to the waves crash against the shore. When summer rolls around, it’s all about basking in the sun, cooling off with a refreshing swim, and indulging in a perfectly cheesy pizza by the beach.”

Ayushi
Monash University
LinkedIn: /in/dr-daga/



“Melbourne’s vibrant music scene is an absolute treasure. I love checking out Eventbrite to see what’s going on around the city, and I’m always amazed by the range of free events available. From soulful jazz performances to ensemble concerts, there’s always something exciting to experience. These events offer a perfect break from a busy study schedule, and I’d highly recommend giving them a try!”

Doris
Monash University
LinkedIn: /in/doris-tang-3333861b4/

HELLO, MELBOURNE



QUICK FACTS

CULTURALLY DIVERSE

Around one-third of Melbourne's population was born overseas. The most common birthplaces are China, India, Malaysia, England and Indonesia. Melbourne's Chinatown is also the longest continuous Chinese settlement in the western world.

AUSTRALIA'S MOST LIVEABLE CITY

Melbourne has once again been named as Australia's Best Student City, and amongst the very best in the world, according to the latest QS Best Student City rankings 2025. Melbourne was also named the most liveable city in Australia and #4 globally in the Economist Intelligence Unit's Global Liveability Index 2024.

TRAM CENTRAL

By track length, Melbourne has the longest metropolitan tram network in the world, with approximately 250 km of tracks in total. The network has over 475 trams and 1,700 stops servicing most of Melbourne. So, grab an International Student Travel Pass myki card and explore the city!

URBAN MYTH?

Reportedly, Flinders Street Station was actually intended for Mumbai and the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus in Mumbai was meant for Melbourne, but the plans from the same firm were accidentally switched.

A DIVISIVE SPREAD

Fishermans Bend in Port Melbourne is the only place in the world that makes Vegemite, an iconic, salty spread that you'll find in most Australian pantries. When trying it for the first time, remember that a little bit goes a long way.

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

The world's first feature film, *The Story of the Kelly Gang*, was directed and filmed in Melbourne in 1906. *Where The Wild Things Are*, *Mad Max* and *Charlotte's Web* were also filmed around Melbourne and regional Victoria.

MEET OUR COVER STARS

VICKY

What I love most about living in Melbourne is the vibrant mix of culture, food, and natural beauty. There's always something happening, whether it's a street art festival, coffee at a cozy café, or a spontaneous gathering by the Yarra River. It's a city that feels alive yet relaxed.

For new international students adjusting to life here, I'd say: join clubs! Whether it's sports, music, or an academic group, finding friends with common interests makes the city feel more like home. And, don't be afraid to reach out for help! There are free resources like Study Melbourne and official websites like the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (for rental rights) and Fair Work Ombudsman (for working rights) that are there to guide you through any challenges.

As for the number one spot I'd take friends and family visiting Melbourne - it's definitely the Yarra River. There's something special about hanging out at one of the floating bars, enjoying a drink by the water, and soaking in the chill vibes of the city. It's the perfect way to show off Melbourne's active yet relaxed charm.



Vicky



Maria



MARIA

Moving to Melbourne has been such an exciting and rewarding experience. There's so much to love about this city, from its lively culture to its welcoming community.

One thing I've found helpful is getting involved in things I'm passionate about. Joining student clubs or checking out events on Eventbrite is a great way to meet people and discover new interests. There's always something happening here!

Navigating the city is super easy once you download the Public Transport Victoria (PTV) and tramTRACKER apps. They've been my go-to tools for getting around, and now I can plan trips and explore like a local.

And, if you ever need support or advice, there are amazing resources like Study Melbourne, The Couch, and your university's services. Reaching out can open doors to meeting incredible people and make adjusting to life here so much smoother.

One of my favourite spots in the city is the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria. Whether I'm taking friends and family there or just enjoying some downtime, it's always a relaxing and beautiful escape.

Melbourne has so much to offer - it's a city that quickly feels like home!

YOUR FIRST WEEK IN MELBOURNE

1. BUY A MYKI CARD

You'll need a myki card to get around on public transport. These are available as physical cards or as a digital Mobile myki. Buy one from 7-Eleven stores or other selected retailers, as well as at myki machines at selected stations and stops. Check if your institution is signed up to the International Student Travel Pass program. With this, you could be eligible to save 50% on travel as an international student.



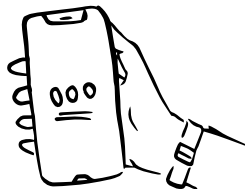
2. SET UP YOUR BANK ACCOUNT

Visit a branch in person to open an Australian bank account - visit [page 20](#) for more information. This will be vital for getting paid if you're planning to work in Australia, paying rent and managing expenses.



3. CONNECT YOUR PHONE

You can either buy a new phone or use your current one by buying a new SIM card. You'll have the option of getting a prepaid or monthly plan. Turn to Communications and Technology on [page 36](#) for more information.



4. SAVE IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Keep a record of important numbers, such as Triple Zero (000) for emergency services (police, fire or ambulance), your landlord, your OSHC provider and your education provider.

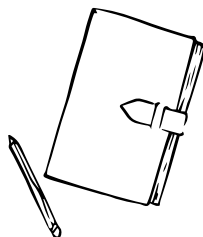


5. DO A GROCERY SHOP

Head to the grocery store to grab some essentials. We recommend a combination of your favourite foods from home and some Australian snacks – the perfect mix of old and new!

6. VISIT YOUR CAMPUS

Explore your campus to see where your classes are and find new study spots. Visit the International Student Office on your campus to find out about events and support on offer. Find out when orientation week (O-Week) and preliminary lectures begin, and buy study materials, such as textbooks.



MUST-DO IN MELBOURNE

In Melbourne, there's fun to be had all year round. Here's how to enjoy your time in Melbourne season by season.

SUMMER



GET YOUR THRILLS AT LUNA PARK

Spend your summer days in the whimsical wonderland that is Luna Park. This historic amusement park is known for its fun-filled rides, including the Ferris Wheel which offers panoramic views of the sparkling cityscape. In between rides, you can beat the heat with an ice-cold treat.

AUTUMN



STROLL AROUND THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS

Nestled in the CBD, you'll find the Royal Botanic Garden, a beautiful oasis filled with lush greenery. Whether you opt to explore on your own or join a guided tour, there's no better place to watch the leaves change and enjoy the crisp autumn air.

WINTER



WATCH A LIVE AFL MATCH

Melbourne is the sporting capital of Australia, so you have to enjoy a match of the city's favourite sport - Australian Rules Football! The oldest clubs - Melbourne Football Club and Geelong - date back to the 1850s, and still play today! Pick a team, grab a pie and cheer with the fans.

SPRING



EXPLORE THE QUEEN VICTORIA MARKET

The iconic Queen Victoria Market has been operating since 1878. It is home to over 600 small businesses, and at night comes to life with unique events. It's the perfect place to pick up supplies for a spring picnic in Carlton Gardens.

PREPARING

ACCOMMODATION

COMPARING ACCOMMODATION TYPES



In Australia, you're spoiled for choice when it comes to accommodation options. When choosing yours, be sure to consider your needs, lifestyle and budget. No matter your situation, there's an accommodation style suited to you.

studymelbourne.vic.gov.au/living-here

Important note: The figures listed below are research-based median ranges as outlined on the Study Melbourne Cost of Living Calculator. While quite broad, we acknowledge that the prices of certain accommodations may fall below or above this range. We also acknowledge that, while these ranges are correct at the time of publication, they are subject to change.



PRIVATE RENTAL

Cost: A\$200-\$700/wk

In this style of accommodation, you rent an apartment or house, either on your own or with other people. If you share with others, you can opt to rent a shared room or a private room. Living with other people has plenty of perks, including more opportunities for socialisation and lower living costs. On the other hand, living alone also offers many benefits, namely independence. You'll also have the freedom to design your space exactly as you want and to come and go without worrying about disturbing others. However, living alone is generally more expensive.



HOMESTAY

Cost: A\$300-\$470/wk

Under a homestay arrangement, you live with a local Australian family in their home. Typically, the host family is responsible for covering the cost of utilities, internet and, in some cases, meals. So, if you're looking for an all-inclusive price structure and a sense of local guidance, a homestay could be the perfect fit. Keep in mind that homestays can be located anywhere, meaning you could be living far from your campus.






PURPOSE-BUILT STUDENT ACCOMMODATION

Cost: A\$220-\$820/wk

Student accommodation comes in various forms, from studios that you'll have all to yourself to multi-bedroom shared apartments. Each style of room comes fully furnished and all bills (including internet) are included in the price of rent. To ensure you choose high-quality student accommodation, check the National Property Accreditation Scheme (NPAS). Properties accredited under the NPAS meet the industry-led minimum standards for student safety and wellness.

npas.org.au

 24/7 SUPPORT

 SOCIALISATION

 FUN EVENTS/ACTIVITIES



RESIDENTIAL COLLEGE

Cost: A\$580-900/wk

Residential colleges are ideal for students who are looking for ultimate convenience along with some extra perks. Not only are they close to campus and fully furnished, but they sometimes offer additional amenities such as study spaces, gyms, meals and/or room cleaning. The price of residential college accommodation can vary significantly depending on your style of room and study location.

 CLOSE TO CAMPUS

 GREAT FACILITIES

 FULLY FURNISHED

HEAD ONLINE

Designed specifically for international students coming to Australia, use our specialised quiz to discover what kind of accommodation matches your preferences.



INSIDER GUIDES

FACTORS TO CONSIDER WHEN SELECTING ACCOMMODATION

- ☐ How close is it to your study institution?
- ☐ What is your budget? Does it include bills like utilities, water, power, internet?
- ☐ How close is it to public transport and what will the travel cost be?
- ☐ What is nearby? (Shops, hospitals, police stations, parks)
- ☐ Is there adequate heating and cooling?
- ☐ Is the area safe and is the building secure?
- ☐ What will the insurance costs be?
- ☐ Does everything work? (Smoke alarms, appliances, light switches)

RENTAL SCAMS

Unfortunately, rental scams can occur in Australia. To protect yourself against them, look out for some of these common warning signs.

Be careful of offers that sound too good to be true. Ask advice from trusted friends, your education provider or agent, if you notice any of the following:

- The rent is a lot cheaper than other similar accommodation in the area
- You are asked to sign a lease or pay a bond or deposit before you have seen the property
- The photos or description of the property don't match the reality on inspection
- The landlord or agent makes excuses that you can't view the property (e.g., saying they are overseas)
- The landlord or agent requests money via money transfer
- The scammers may try to appear genuine by providing photos, real addresses of properties, copies of land titles, and even scans of stolen passports. Scammers also ask for personal details – such as bank and credit card numbers – which they use for credit card and identity fraud
- Make sure you always inspect the property in person (or complete a virtual inspection if you can't attend) and don't send any money via money transfer

HOW TO PAY RENT

There are a few different ways to pay rent in Australia. These include direct debit (bank), BPAY (a type of electronic payment), or paying in person with card or cash. Your real estate agent or landlord will sometimes offer a range of options or request only one. Be sure to ask or check your rental agreement to find out their preferences.

BEFORE YOU TAKE OUT A LEASE ON A PROPERTY

- ☐ Ensure you have enough money to cover the bond.
- ☐ Arrange a reference or guarantor.
- ☐ Inspect the property before you sign a contract or pay a deposit.
- ☐ Check that the offer is legitimate.
- ☐ Photograph any existing damage or issues.

HOW MUCH WILL MY BOND BE?

In private rentals and managed student accommodation, you will need to pay a bond in advance. As long as you don't damage the property and stay up to date on your rental payments, this bond will be returned at the end of your agreement. For private rentals, this bond cannot legally be more than four weeks' rent.

Make sure you receive a receipt for all money given to your landlord or real estate agent, including the bond. You should also get a bond authority lodgment notice from Consumer Affairs Victoria.

LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AS A RENTER

Study Melbourne offers a wide range of accommodation support and advice for international students, including information to help you understand your accommodation rights in Australia. If you need help understanding your rights or have a legal problem, Consumer Affairs Victoria is a comprehensive resource for information on housing and your rights and responsibilities.

studymelbourne.vic.gov.au/living-here/accommodation/your-rights-when-renting 

consumer.vic.gov.au/housing/renting 




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TICKETS VIA **TICKETEK**

WHAT SUPPORT SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE FOR RENTERS IN VICTORIA?

Tenants Victoria - tenantsvic.org.au  - can help you understand your rights when renting a room, apartment or house. Visit the website to learn about housing options available, the housing system in Melbourne, and where you can ask for assistance with accommodation issues before and after you arrive.

Community Legal Centres (CLCs) are independent community organisations that provide free legal services to the public. They help people who are ineligible for legal aid and cannot afford a private lawyer. Visit the Federation of Community Legal Centres website - fclc.org.au  - if you think you need legal support for a tenancy issue.

You can also visit Study Melbourne's Hub for free, confidential advice and guidance about where to seek support.

consumer.vic.gov.au/housing/renting 

CAN I GET A PET AS AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT?

You'll want to make sure you've done your research and that you can accommodate the pet in the long term. You'll need to consider certain factors (see above). You also need to know the rules and requirements of pet ownership. They may be different from what you are used to and you could get into trouble if you don't follow them.

melbourne.vic.gov.au/residents/pets 

Fostering an animal is a good option if you can't keep a pet long-term. You will be provided with basic supplies and can enjoy the company of a pet temporarily until they find their perfect forever home.


rspca.org.au/support-us/foster-care 

FACTORS TO CONSIDER BEFORE OWNING A PET

- ☐ Will my accommodation allow pets?
- ☐ Can I afford the upfront costs? (Desexing, registration)
- ☐ Can I afford the ongoing costs? (Food, boarding, healthcare, veterinarian appointments)
- ☐ Will your pet need daily walks and exercise?
- ☐ Will you need a fully enclosed backyard?
- ☐ How often are you not home?
- ☐ How long will you be staying in Australia? What will happen to your pet if you decide to leave?



NATIVE WILDLIFE – A MESSAGE FROM CRIME STOPPERS VICTORIA

Victoria is full of cute animals you will likely meet during your stay, and we need your help to keep them safe. Crime Stoppers Victoria allows you to share crime information confidentially. Please let us know if someone is hurting, stealing, or selling animals from the wild. Overseas animals can also hurt our fragile ecosystem. That's why serious penalties apply for bringing overseas pets into Victoria illegally. You should always double-check local laws before you transport or purchase any animal. If you know anyone bringing animals in and out of Victoria illegally, you can share what you know with Crime Stoppers at 1800 333 000 or crimestoppersvic.com.au 

HOUSEMATES' CODE

Living in a share house can be a really fun experience. Here are a few tips you can use to ensure a happy and harmonious household.

1. FOOD

Establish early on how groceries will be purchased and make it clear what food you will share. Don't eat any food that isn't yours or designated as shared (ask first!).

2. GUESTS

Communication with your housemates is crucial when it comes to guests. Guidelines to consider include when/how long they should be there and which areas/rooms are shared spaces.

3. CLEANING

No one likes a messy house. So, consider creating a cleaning roster to divide your household chores. You will still be responsible for doing your own dishes and laundry, and keeping your room tidy.

4. RENT

Make sure rent is paid on time to the right person. You might be paying rent to a head housemate or making individual payments to the real estate agent or landlord.

5. BILLS

Have a plan for how bills - such as rent, utilities and internet - are divided and paid. If one person has been put in charge of managing bills, make sure you pay your portion to avoid housemate disputes.

6. MOVING OUT

If someone decides to move out, establish the process involved. Determine how much notice they need to give and whether you need to alert your property manager or landlord.

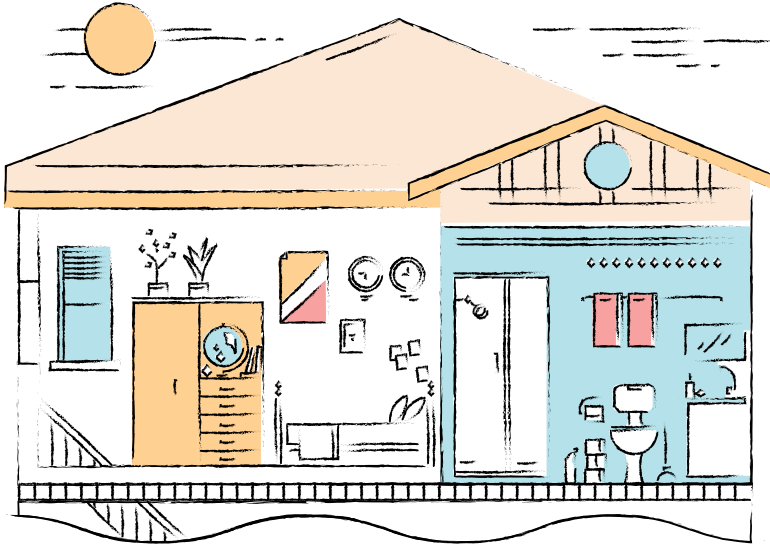


"Living with others is all about communication, respect, and sharing responsibilities. Be considerate of privacy, divide chores fairly, and take time to bond to create a positive, harmonious living environment."

**Taran
Holmesglen**

SETTING UP YOUR NEW HOME

There are plenty of stores and online marketplaces in Australia offering affordable furniture and other household items. Even if your accommodation is furnished, it's important to bring some of your personality to your space to make it your own. For example, putting up posters, art or photographs of friends and family, buying indoor plants, or displaying souvenirs from your travels.



WHERE TO SHOP

FURNITURE STORES

There are two IKEA stores located in Melbourne (Richmond and Springvale), where you can find reasonably-priced furniture and homewares. Fantastic Furniture and Amart are also good options, with locations around the city.

OP SHOPS

If you're looking for one-of-a-kind, affordable furnishings and homewares, op shops (second-hand stores) selling pre-owned items are perfect. Melbourne is home to several Vinnies, Salvos and Savers stores, as well as independent stores and boutiques.

ONLINE MARKETPLACES

In Australia, Gumtree and eBay are two of the biggest online marketplaces for new and used furniture and home goods. On Gumtree, you may find people giving things away for free (but you might have to move the furniture yourself).



FACEBOOK

Facebook Marketplace is a great resource for buying (and selling) furniture and homewares. You'll also find plenty of buy, swap, sell groups on Facebook that are dedicated to particular suburbs around Melbourne.

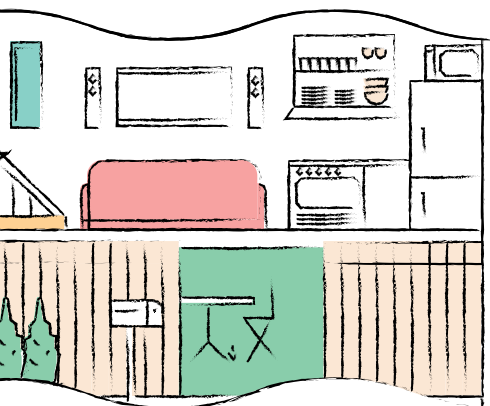
HOMEWARES STORES

Look for your nearest Kmart, Target or Big W – these stores sell everything from furniture and lighting to kitchenware and bedding at low prices. Supermarket chain, ALDI, offers weekly 'Special Buys', with discounts on everything from cookware to vacuum cleaners.

SHOPPING ONLINE

For convenience, you can also shop online and have household items delivered to your door. Koala sells mattresses and other furniture, Who Gives A Crap delivers environmentally-friendly toilet paper, and Coles and Woolworths grocery deliveries make it easy to stock your kitchen.

Note: Be careful when shopping from online marketplaces such as Gumtree or Facebook Marketplace. When buying, you should always meet in person to see the item and exchange money. If possible, take a friend with you. Search online for any reports of common scams on these websites so you can be aware and keep yourself safe.



IMPORTANT STEPS WHEN MOVING INTO A NEW HOME

- 1. Notify your bank, employer, education provider and OSHC provider of your new address.** Your student visa requires you to update your education provider within seven days of arriving in Australia or moving to a new address.
- 2. Get to know your local area and council.** Find out where your nearest medical centre, shops, public transport hubs and fitness facilities are located. Learn about waste disposal in your area, including recycling and composting options. Check out your local council's website for more information.
- 3. Tell your friends and family back home where you're living.** They probably want to know that you're in a safe place and they may want to send mail from time to time.
- 4. Think about home and contents insurance.** If you're living in your own apartment or house, or have joined an existing share house, you might want to purchase home and contents insurance to protect your belongings from theft or damage.
- 5. Set up your utilities and check your home is in working order.** You'll need to search around for a good deal on utilities such as electricity and gas and make sure things like your hot water, taps and switches work. If there are any faults, notify your landlord.



MONEY AND BANKING

BANKS IN AUSTRALIA

WHY DO I NEED AN AUSTRALIAN BANK ACCOUNT?

Opening an Australian bank account will make it easy to manage your money. You'll be able to pay your rent and bills, transfer funds between accounts and build up emergency savings. You'll have easy access to your money and won't have to worry about international transfer fees.

You'll also need an Australian bank account if you decide to get a part-time job while you study, or if you're on a scholarship, as these payments cannot be made to overseas accounts.

HOW DO I SET UP A BANK ACCOUNT?

Setting up a bank account in Australia is easy! There are several Australian banks to choose from, including Australia and New Zealand Banking Group (ANZ), Commonwealth Bank (CBA), National Australia Bank (NAB) and Westpac.

To open a bank account, you will generally need to visit a local branch of the bank of your choice, taking any necessary identification with you. Once your identification has been verified, you will receive access to your very own Australian bank account. This usually consists of a daily spending account, which you can use to pay for things like rent and groceries, and a savings account, which you can add to over time. You will also be given a debit card, allowing you to shop within Australia and online without paying any extra fees.

AUTOMATIC TELLER MACHINES (ATMS), CONTACTLESS PAYMENT AND PAYID

You can use your debit card to withdraw cash from most ATMs across Australia. Remember - using an ATM that isn't from your bank may incur a fee. Luckily, you can also set up contactless payment by adding your card to your mobile phone so you can pay for things if you forget your wallet. PayID uses your phone number to make payments or transfer money to friends if you're splitting a bill. Check your bank's website or give them a call for more information.

CAN I GET AN AUSTRALIAN CREDIT CARD AS AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT?

As an international student, getting a credit card can be a little complicated. Most Australian banks require you to be on a certain visa and earn a minimum salary in order to be eligible for a credit card. If you're confident you'll need an Australian credit card, head to your local bank branch to talk about your options. In most cases, you will need to undergo a credit check and meet certain requirements.

WHAT SHOULD I BRING WITH ME TO OPEN A BANK ACCOUNT?

- ☐ Passport or birth certificate
- ☐ National Identity Card (if you have one)
- ☐ Proof of Australian address (can be a household bill)
- ☐ Proof of enrolment
- ☐ Driver's licence

Note: It is not necessary to have a Tax File Number (TFN) to get a bank account, but without one, you will get taxed the highest marginal tax rate on the interest your money earns in the bank account.



MANAGING YOUR MONEY



HOW DO I MANAGE MY BUDGET?


The first step in managing your budget is understanding your current financial position. Predict and list all of your income and expenses for the next three to six months as best you can. Then, it's time to think about ways to improve it.

Think about the things that add a lot of value compared to the things you don't really need to pay for. For example, you might buy a coffee every day when you can make one at home instead. Next, download an app such as Pocketbook or Wally on your phone and sync up your bank accounts. With these, you can start tracking and setting goals for spending and saving. You can also use the Australian Government's MoneySmart service for advice.

moneysmart.gov.au 

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I AM FACING FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES?

If you are having any difficulties with your finances, your first contact should be your educational institution. They have qualified staff available to help and can point you in the right direction for support. If you are experiencing financial hardship then you may be able to apply to pay your tuition in installments. Study Melbourne has advice on where to look for help.

studymelbourne.vic.gov.au/living-here/money-and-budgeting 

SCAMS AND SECURITY

Unfortunately, there are a number of scams specifically targeted towards international students, including agency, accommodation, blackmailing and online scams, and these increased during the COVID-19 pandemic. If you are vigilant and aware of these scams, you will be better able to avoid them. Scamwatch and Victoria Police outline different types of incidents and who to contact for help. You can report a scam to Victoria police by going to your local police station or confidentially reporting it to Crime Stoppers.

scamwatch.gov.au  · police.vic.gov.au/fraud-and-scams  · crimestoppersvic.com.au 

WHERE CAN I SEEK HELP FOR GAMBLING?

Gambling can be addictive, which not only affects your health but your finances too. There are several resources available to help you overcome your gambling addiction. These include Gambler's Help and various community services.

gamblershelp.com.au 
gamblinghelponline.org.au 

STAY SAFE ONLINE WITH THESE TIPS

Let's take you through the most common scams and how to protect yourself.

INSIDER GUIDES



TRANSFERRING FUNDS

Setting up your new life in Australia is an exciting process, but it does come with many expenses. Course fees, textbooks, rent, monthly bills, everyday spending – all these costs can lead to a lot of transactions. So, what are the best ways to send and receive funds in Australia? Let's look at your options to find the one that suits your needs.

SEND AND RECEIVE MONEY FROM HOME

If you have internet banking set up, you can easily receive funds from home or send money overseas. To do so, make sure you have all the required codes (i.e. SWIFT, Sort and, for Europeans, IBAN) and the correct account numbers. Bank transfers are ideal for smaller amounts that you'll use for everyday expenses. For larger amounts, better exchange rates and lower fees, you may want to consider other services.

If you need your money in minutes, consider working with money transfer companies. They provide a fast option to send and receive money overseas in short time frames. If you shop around, certain companies will often give you a better deal on currency exchange rates than your bank. PayPal is one of the most well-known money transfer systems, but it does attract a currency conversion fee. Otherwise, you can check out dedicated international money transfer services like Western Union.

A prepaid credit card is a great way to receive money from home for daily expenses and not fall into the trap of spending more money than you have in your budget. Both Visa and Mastercard (widely accepted in Australia) have card issuers that offer their own prepaid credit cards. Many of these cards even come with special discounts on things like food and entertainment for members. Chat to your bank or financial institution to see what options are available.

PAY YOUR EDUCATION EXPENSES AND OTHER BILLS

Your education provider will outline a range of different ways you can pay for your tuition fees as an international student. Depending on your institution, this might be through electronic bill payment systems, telegraphic transfer, credit card or another payment portal. Usually, your education provider will have a preferred payment provider, so make sure you check their website.

When it comes to paying bills in Australia, BPAY and POLi Payments are electronic bill payment systems that enable secure payment for many different expenses, like your monthly mobile phone or other utility bills. Look for the BPAY or POLi reference number on your bill and then select the relevant option on your internet, mobile or phone banking account to make your payment.

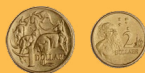
CURRENCY

Australian currency is made up of coins and notes. There are silver 5, 10, 20 and 50-cent coins, and gold 1 and 2 dollar coins, of varying shapes. There are also 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100-dollar notes that come in different colours.

Dollar notes



Gold dollar coins



Notes are made of plastic, so they're waterproof!

Silver cent coins



Study Melbourne Hub

We're here to support you

The Study Melbourne Hub is the go-to space for international students. Visit us for free and confidential support services, study spaces or to meet new friends.

We can answer questions about your health and wellbeing, accommodation issues, work rights, and budgeting. We also offer:

- free and confidential legal service for employment or accommodation issues
- study spaces with free Wi-Fi, drinks and snacks
- cultural, social and networking events
- leadership and professional development programs.



Open Monday to Friday, 9am - 5pm



17 Hardware Lane, Melbourne



1800 056 449



info@studymelbourne.vic.gov.au



Scan the QR code to find out more.



COST OF LIVING

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Most of Australia's capital cities have travel cards that make getting around super easy; in Victoria, this is a myki card. You could be eligible for discounted fares through an International Student Travel Pass myki card if you're enrolled with a participating institution. With this pass, you pay upfront for 90 days, 180 days or 365 days of travel. Depending on which one you select, you can expect the cost to equate **to A\$3.20-A\$6.40** per day. If you opt to pay as you go, you can generally expect **to pay between A\$25 and \$60** per week, depending on how much you travel.

ptv.vic.gov.au/tickets/fares/ 



ENTERTAINMENT AND HOBBIES

Your entertainment and hobby expenses will depend largely on your interests. If you love working out, you may want to sign up for a gym membership. This will likely cost around **A\$17 to A\$40** per week based on the location and membership you choose. Are you a big movie fan? A cinema ticket in Victoria can cost anywhere from **A\$10 to A\$45** depending on the type of ticket you buy. When it comes to eating out, there are many options suited to any budget, big or small.

HOT TIP

Many organisations and venues in Victoria offer student concessions. When heading to restaurants, clothing stores and other venues, be sure to have your student ID card on hand and ask about any discounts they offer!

GROCERIES


The amount you spend on groceries will depend on your food preferences. However, you can probably expect to spend between **A\$80 and A\$150** per week.

Here are the approximate prices of some common food items:

- **A 5kg bag of rice** = A\$8.50-\$9.50
- **A 1L bottle of full cream milk** = A\$1.60-\$3.90
- **Two large chicken breasts** = A\$10.50-\$13.50
- **1kg of carrots** = A\$2.00-\$3.50
- **1kg of apples** = A\$3.90-\$7.50

FINANCIAL SUPPORT & ADVICE

If you're finding that your student budget isn't stretching as far as you thought or you're in financial distress, reach out to the Study Melbourne Hub Victoria for support.

studymelbourne.vic.gov.au/our-study-hubs/study-melbourne-hub-victoria 



"Tap into every student program out there! From events hosted by your university to international student initiatives by Study Melbourne and IDP, there's a wealth of free or discounted opportunities waiting for you. And remember, shopping for groceries on an empty stomach is a rookie mistake—your budget (and your pantry) will thank you!"

Ayushi,
Monash University

ACCOMMODATION

Rent and other accommodation costs will vary between cities and accommodation styles. For example, a private rental in Melbourne will likely cost anywhere from **A\$200 to A\$820** per week, depending on whether you rent a room or an entire apartment on your own. Learn more about the costs of various accommodation styles in the Accommodation section of this guide.

EMPLOYMENT

EMPLOYMENT BASICS





CAN I WORK WHILE STUDYING?

Yes! As an international student, you are allowed to work up to 48 hours per fortnight (every two weeks), and full-time during semester breaks. Restrictions on working hours are subject to change. To stay up to date, visit the Department of Home Affairs website. Australia also has laws guaranteeing basic workplace rights, including minimum pay and conditions. You can learn more about these on **page 32** and via Study Melbourne.

immi.homeaffairs.gov.au 
 studymelbourne.vic.gov.au/working-here 

WHERE SHOULD I LOOK FOR A PART-TIME/CASUAL JOB?

There are a range of job-seeking sites you can access for free to check work vacancies in Melbourne - we have listed some of the most popular sites below. Most education providers have a careers website that will list jobs specifically targeted to students. If you'd prefer to freelance or work on your own time, check out Airtasker, Fiverr or Upwork.

seek.com.au  · careerone.com.au  ·
 au.indeed.com  · jobs.vic.gov.au 

CAN I GET A JOB AFTER I GRADUATE?

There are visa options available to you if you are interested in working in Australia after you graduate. The most common visa pathway for international graduates is the Temporary Graduate (subclass 485) visa, which could allow you to live and work in Australia for up to six years. To learn more, visit the Department of Home Affairs website or speak to a registered migration agent.

There are plenty of graduate opportunities available in Melbourne and across Victoria, in a range of different industries and business types. Prosple is a great place to start looking for positions.

au.prosple.com 
 studymelbourne.vic.gov.au/working/work-after-graduating 

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF EMPLOYMENT?

Your type of employment will affect your hours of work, your rate of pay and some of your entitlements.

Generally, employees are either:


- **Full-time** – work 38 hours per week, plus reasonable additional hours.
- **Part-time** – work less than 38 hours per week. These employees work a regular pattern of hours. Part-time employees get entitlements such as annual leave and personal/carer's leave on a pro-rata basis – this means that it is based on how many ordinary hours they work.
- **Casual** – usually aren't guaranteed a certain number of hours each week. They usually get a casual loading (an extra percentage added to their rate of pay) instead of entitlements like paid personal/carer's leave or annual leave, a paid day off on a public holiday, or redundancy pay.

Casual or part-time employment is great for international students, as you can schedule work around your classes.

TAX AND YOUR TAX FILE NUMBER

Before you start work in Australia, you will need a TFN. Your TFN will ensure that you get taxed at the correct rate for the amount of work you're doing. Australia has a tax-free threshold of \$18,200, meaning that you will pay no tax if you earn less than this amount in one year. If you have any tax taken from your earnings, you will need to complete a tax return at the end of the financial year, and you may get some of that money back.

For more information about applying for a TFN, visit the Australian Tax Office (ATO) website.



ato.gov.au/Individuals/Tax-File-Number/Apply-for-a-TFN 

WHAT IS SUPERANNUATION?

Often known as 'super', this is a financial contribution you'll use for living expenses when you retire. You can contribute to your own fund, but it's most common for your employer to do this. If you are an employee, you are entitled to receive super from your employer, even as a temporary resident. If you're under 18, you'll need to work over 30 hours a week to be eligible for super

From 1 July 2023, as long as you meet the eligibility requirements to receive superannuation, your employer must contribute 11% of your income to your super, no matter how much you earn. Your super is provided in addition to your regular wage - it is not taken out of your pay. You can also claim your super when you leave Australia.

The percentage of required superannuation contributions is subject to change, so check the Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO) website for the most up-to-date information.

ato.gov.au/Individuals/Super 
ato.gov.au/calculators-and-tools/am-i-entitled-to-super 


STUDY MELBOURNE SUPPORT

Study Melbourne offers a wide range of employment support and advice for international students, including information to help you understand your working rights in Australia. Study Melbourne can also refer you to a free legal advice service if you have concerns related to your employment conditions.

studymelbourne.vic.gov.au/working 

DO I NEED AN AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS NUMBER (ABN)?

You don't need an ABN to work for an Australian employer as a full-time, part-time or casual employee. You'll only need one if you're an independent contractor, like a freelancer.

fairwork.gov.au/find-help-for/independent-contractors 

FREELANCERS & GIG WORKERS

Freelancers - also sometimes known as gig workers - set their own hours, working independently. You can decide when you work, the type of work you do and how much you are paid. This provides a great amount of flexibility but also means your income may vary from month to month.

The 48-hour work limit applies to all kinds of work, including freelancing. Make sure the amount of work you are undertaking does not exceed this limit.

gigworkers.org.au/ 

IMPROVING YOUR EMPLOYABILITY

There are many ways you can improve your employability and develop workplace skills. This can make it easier to find jobs, and you'll be better prepared for the Australian workforce.

INTERNSHIPS AND WORK EXPERIENCE

An internship may be a compulsory part of your degree, or you might just want a bit of extra professional experience to improve your resume. Check with your education provider's career centre for options for arranging an internship or work experience.

NETWORKING

In Australia, professional networking is one of the most effective ways of securing a job. By making new connections, you're directly showing people what you have to offer, such as great communication and interpersonal skills. Networking also helps to ensure that people remember and consider you for employment opportunities. You can find networking events through your education provider, Study Melbourne or external organisations, such as Eventbrite.

eventbrite.com.au 🔍

NETWORKING ON LINKEDIN

LinkedIn is the most powerful social media platform for professionals and is a great way to easily build industry connections. Make sure to keep an up-to-date LinkedIn profile tracking your experience and achievements.

VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering will provide you with a vast range of soft skills, improve your ability to communicate, allow you to make new friends and network, and help you integrate with your new community. Your education provider may offer volunteering opportunities (just ask careers staff or the international student office), but you can also seek off-campus volunteering roles.

studymelbourne.vic.gov.au/upskill-and-connect/volunteer 🔍 · volunteeringvictoria.org.au 🔍

EMPLOYABILITY PROGRAMS

The Study Melbourne Empowered Series is packed with free activities and events designed to get you job-ready and build your leadership skills. Take advantage of a variety of free events and activities like career development workshops, one-on-one resume sessions and premium networking events.

You can also head to Study Australia's Employability Hub to check out the Study Australia Industry Experience Program (SAIEP) which provides an opportunity to engage in real world industry projects with the end goal to improve post-study employment prospects.

studymelbourne.vic.gov.au/upskill-and-connect 🔍 · studyaustralia.gov.au/english/employability 🔍

MIGRANT WORKERS CENTRE

The Migrant Workers Centre empowers migrant workers in Victoria, including international students, to understand their rights, enforce them in Australian workplaces, and connect with other migrant workers.

migrantworkers.org.au 🔍



Upskill and connect

Study Melbourne offers tailored and free programs to help international students settle into life, upskill and connect, and launch a global career.

Connect with Study Melbourne to develop your career and leadership skills, explore entrepreneurship and get the most out of student life in Melbourne. Join us for:

- career workshops
- resume checks
- volunteering opportunities
- leadership workshops
- networking events
- social activities.





Scan the QR code to register for the latest programs and events.


LEARN MORE ON OUR SOCIALS

 StudyMelbourneVIC

 @StudyMelbourne

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HOW DO I WRITE A RESUME?

Your resume is often your first impression for employers - so make sure it's a good one! Below, we've underlined some mistakes you'll want to avoid when writing your resume.

JOHN TAN

Ph: (01) 2345 6789
heartbreakerxoxo@hotmail.com
 2023 Guide Street, Adelaide, SA, 5000
Visa status: Student
DOB: 26/12/96
Marital status: Single
Religion: Jedi

EDUCATION

BACHELOR OF BUSINESS
 Insider University
 2014-2018

- Dean's Merit List

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA
 Insider Secondary School
 2010-2014

PRIMARY SCHOOL
Insider Primary School

SKILLS & CERTIFICATIONS

SOFT SKILLS

- Friendly & bubbly
- Reliable & punctual
- Organisation
- Problem-solving
- Flexibility

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Microsoft Office Suite
- MailChimp
- Lightspeed POS software

CERTIFICATIONS

- Construction White Card - 2019
- Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) - 2017

PERSONAL STATEMENT

I am eager to fill the advertised role of marketing assistant because I need money to pay my rent. I am confident my interpersonal, organisational and problem-solving skills from the retail industry will help me succeed in this position. I'm especially interested in working with Review Media because the organisation is one of the leaders in Australia's marketing sector.

WORK EXPERIENCE

SHOP ASSISTANT
 Insider Shop | Adelaide, SA | January 2020 - Present

Responsibilities

- Folding clothes
- Organising accessories
- Handling money
- Handling inventory reports
- Handling merchandise exchanges and returns

Key achievements

- Staff member of the month - June 2020
- Increased sales by 10% in Q1 2021

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

MARKETING ASSISTANT
 RSPCA | Adelaide, SA | January 2019 - December 2019

Responsibilities

- Created ads for social media
- Tracked analytics for ad campaigns
- Wrote monthly marketing reports
- Conducted market research
- Sent out weekly email newsletters

Key achievements

- Boosted web traffic by 15% in the first month of volunteering

- 1 Ensure your personal information (such as your email) is professional. Avoid disclosing too many personal details - such as your date of birth, age, weight, visa status and religion - as these aren't needed on a resume.
- 2 Show a genuine interest in the role and the company - this will assure employers that you really want to work for them.
- 3 Include your most recent/relevant academic history. Your primary school details probably don't need to be on your resume.
- 4 Check (and double check!) your resume for any typos. Consider having a friend review your resume to get rid of any spelling or grammatical mistakes.
- 5 Use when describing your tasks and responsibilities in past jobs/volunteer roles.
- 6 Only include certifications that are relevant to the job you're applying for or the company.

DISCOVER MORE COMMON MISTAKES TO AVOID ON YOUR RESUME

INSIDER GUIDES





RMIT University

A world leader in design, technology and enterprise

#18 **#1**
globally in Australia
for Architecture and
Built Environment¹

#45 **#4**
globally in Australia
for Communication and
Media Studies¹

Top
100 **#6**
globally in Australia
for Engineering – Civil
and Structural¹

#22 **#1**
globally in Australia
for Interdisciplinary
Science Research²

82.6%
of postgraduate students gain
full-time employment within
four months of graduating³




Located in the heart of
Melbourne City,
Brunswick and Bundoora


WORKPLACE RIGHTS

DO YOU KNOW YOUR WORKPLACE RIGHTS AND PROTECTIONS IN AUSTRALIA?


As an international student, you have the same workplace rights and protections as all employees in Australia.

The Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO) is Australia's workplace relations regulator and can help if you have problems with your workplace rights or entitlements such as pay and leave.

When starting a new job, you can take a short 'Starting a new job' online course to learn about your workplace rights and entitlements at [fairwork.gov.au/learning](https://www.fairwork.gov.au/learning) 

You can't get in trouble for being underpaid. If you have a workplace issue, you can contact the FWO for help without fear of your visa being cancelled. Visit [fairwork.gov.au/internationalstudents](https://www.fairwork.gov.au/internationalstudents)  for more information.

The FWO's anonymous reporting tool available at [fairwork.gov.au/tipoff](https://www.fairwork.gov.au/tipoff) lets you report a workplace issue in 17 different languages, without providing your personal information.


[fairwork.gov.au/languages](https://www.fairwork.gov.au/languages)  has information in over 30 different languages to help you understand your work rights. To speak your language, you can call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) on 13 14 50. Tell the operator the language you speak and ask them to call the FWO on 13 13 94.


Remember, contacting and getting help from the FWO is FREE!



A FEW IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER!

Knowing your workplace rights and entitlements can be one of your best defences against being exploited at work. Here are a few important things to remember:

1. There are minimum pay rates that you have to be paid, based on the work you do. Visa workers are entitled to the same minimum pay rates and workplace conditions as any other Australian employee with the same job in their workplace.
2. Know who you are working for – ask the question: what is the business name and the Australian Business Number (ABN)?
3. When starting a new job, employers have to give you a copy of the Fair Work Information Statement ([fairwork.gov.au/FWIS](https://www.fairwork.gov.au/FWIS) ) before, or as soon as possible after you start your new job. You may also need to get other information statements if you're a casual or hired on a fixed term contract.
4. You have to be paid for all hours worked including meetings, training or the time you spend opening and closing the business.
5. It is NOT okay to receive goods, food or services instead of pay.
6. Your employer must pay you at least monthly and give you a pay slip within one day of being paid. Depending on your work, this may need to be more frequent.

It can be helpful to keep a record of the hours you have worked. You can manually record your hours (e.g. in a diary) or use the FWO's Record My Hours app ([fairwork.gov.au/app](https://www.fairwork.gov.au/app) ) which is available in 18 languages.

Melbourne Study Centre

Achieve your dreams
in the heart of Melbourne



utas.edu.au/melbourne

CRICOS PROVIDER CODE 00586B

COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY

INTERNET

HOW DO I ARRANGE HOME INTERNET?

There are several home internet plan providers in Australia including Optus, TPG, Telstra, iiNet, Belong and more. Websites like Finder are a good starting point if you are unsure of pricing and the plan options available in your area. Australia is gradually connecting to the National Broadband Network (NBN), which should provide faster internet speeds across the country. However, speeds in many locations are still quite slow, especially if you come from a country with fast internet. It's worth checking if your new home is connected to the NBN using the NBN Co website.

finder.com.au/broadband-plans 🔍
nbnco.com.au 🔍

When choosing an internet plan, consider:

- ☐ How much data you'll need
- ☐ The download and upload speeds

After you've chosen an internet provider, setting up your home internet is easy. You can buy your own modem or purchase one through your provider. They'll then provide you with all of the necessary steps required to finish your set-up.

FREE WI-FI IN MELBOURNE

Melbourne offers free Wi-Fi in certain parts of the city, including on CBD train platforms. You'll also find free Wi-Fi at Melbourne Airport – ideal if you've just arrived in Australia and need internet to navigate your way into the city. Public libraries, museums (including the NGV) and community centres usually offer free Wi-Fi too, and you'll find that many cafés around Melbourne give decent internet access (either for free or with purchase). The Study Melbourne Hub also provides free Wi-Fi, as should your education provider.



State Library Victoria, 328 Swanston St, Melbourne

**STAYING IN TOUCH
WITH FAMILY AND
FRIENDS BACK HOME
IS EASY – HERE IS
HOW TO DO IT!**



INSIDER GUIDES

**WHILE ONLINE,
CHECK OUT THE BEST
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Holmesglen International
Study Guide.**



MOBILE PHONES

BRINGING YOUR MOBILE PHONE INTO AUSTRALIA

Once you've arrived in Australia, one of the first things you'll want to do is to set yourself up with an Australian phone number - you'll want to avoid expensive international roaming charges at all costs!

So, you'll need to:

- ☐ Make sure your phone is unlocked (a locked phone will mean you can't use another carrier's network)
- ☐ Get a local SIM card and a mobile phone plan

CHOOSING A MOBILE PHONE PLAN

The cost of mobile phone plans varies. Most will offer voice, SMS and data for a single fee, but for extras like international call minutes, you may need to pay extra. If you're bringing your phone into Australia, look for SIM-only plans. If you're interested in a new phone, you can buy a mobile on a plan. You will pay off the phone in equal monthly instalments over the term of a contract. Once your contract is finished, you will own the phone.

Many mobile phone plan providers will also offer prepaid or post-paid plans. Prepaid plans always require you to pay upfront for your service, while most post-paid plans will issue a bill at the end of the month.

WHAT SHOULD I WATCH OUT FOR?

Read your plan/contract, or the terms and conditions, closely to make sure you understand any additional charges that can be applied. Another thing to be aware of is extra inclusions that may come with the service. If the overall deals between phone providers are similar, then consider if you would save money by having free access to another service. For example, the plan may come with free sports streaming, Spotify or Netflix.

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

For plan options, check out any of the mobile phone plan providers we've listed below. You might need some of the following documents to prove who you are:

- ☐ An Australian bank statement or rental agreement
- ☐ Your student visa details
- ☐ Proof of identity, such as your passport

WHERE CAN I BUY A NEW MOBILE PHONE OR SIGN UP FOR A PLAN?

There are several mobile phone providers in Australia that sell phones and/or SIM cards, all offering different plan options. Some of the most popular providers include Vodafone, Telstra, Optus, ALDI mobile, Amaysim and Boost Mobile.

FACTORS TO CONSIDER BEFORE CHOOSING A PLAN

- ☐ How long is the plan contract?
- ☐ How many minutes of phone calls do I get (and are international calls included)?
- ☐ What is the monthly data limit and how much extra will I be charged for going over the limit?
- ☐ How much will I be charged if I need to end the plan contract early?
- ☐ What inclusions/discounts/subscriptions are included?
- ☐ How good is the network coverage? Is the network 4G or 5G?
- ☐ Will I be charged extra for paying bills in a certain way (e.g. credit card)?

STREAMING OPTIONS

In addition to Netflix (which now features ads on its most basic membership plans) and Amazon Prime Video, there is a range of streaming options in Australia at different prices. You can watch these on smart TVs, gaming consoles, Apple TV and Google Chromecast, mobile devices and computers.

STAN stan.com.au

Australian subscription service that offers an extensive back catalogue of local and international content. From \$12/month.

BINGE binge.com.au

Binge is perfect for watching the most popular shows from international networks such as HBO and NBC. From \$10/month.

DISNEY+ disneyplus.com/en-au

All things Disney – plus Marvel, Star Wars and all of *The Simpsons* – are available on Disney+. From \$13.99/month.

KAYO kayosports.com.au

Kayo is the most popular service for sports content, streaming from channels including ESPN and Fox Sports. From \$25/month.

CRUNCHYROLL crunchyroll.com

Home to new and classic anime films and series. You can watch in English, Japanese, or with subtitles. From \$10.99/month.

KANOPI kanopy.com

Kanopy is provided for free through public libraries and universities, offering access to indie films, documentaries and international cinema.

AUSTRALIAN MUST WATCH

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ali's Wedding (Romantic comedy) | <input type="checkbox"/> Looking For Alibrandi (Romantic drama) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Babyteeth (Drama) | <input type="checkbox"/> Mad Max: Fury Road (Action) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bump (Comedy) | <input type="checkbox"/> Mystery Road: Origin (Crime mystery) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Castle (Comedy) | <input type="checkbox"/> Ronny Chieng: International Student (Comedy) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colin from Accounts (Comedy drama) | <input type="checkbox"/> Talk to Me (Horror) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heartbreak High (Teen drama) | <input type="checkbox"/> Wake in Fright (Psychological) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lion (Biographical drama) | <input type="checkbox"/> Year Of (Teen drama) |



FREE STREAMING OPTIONS: ABC IVIEW, SBS ON DEMAND, 7PLUS, 9NOW, 10 PLAY

The main free-to-air stations in Australia all have free apps to watch their shows and films on-demand. You can watch content from these streaming sites on Apple TV, your computer, or via their respective mobile or tablet apps. The websites are free to use, but they may require you to create an account using your email address or social media accounts. Because they're free, you can enjoy a wide range of films and TV programs on a tighter budget. Keep in mind, though, that free streaming services are likely to include advertisements and content may only be available online for a limited time.

STUDYING

From start to finish, there are certain things you'll need to know to prepare for the academic year in Australia.

A TIMELINE OF STUDY TIPS

START OF SEMESTER

Create a lesson and study timetable - An easy-to-understand lesson timetable means you'll always know where you're supposed to be and when. Organise your routine around your classes and include time for studying, socialising, working and relaxing.

Buy your textbooks - If you have required readings, buy them in advance. Consider buying second-hand or eBooks to save some money, or check if copies are available at the library to borrow.

ASSIGNMENT TIME

Understand what is required - Assignments at Australian education providers may range from research papers to group projects. Each of your teachers will have different expectations and grading criteria. Speak to them as early as you can if you have any questions.

PLAGIARISM, CHEATING & AI

Plagiarism is copying someone else's work and presenting it as your own. This may be copying part of an essay (or the entire thing) written by someone else, or using the words of an author without referencing them. Plagiarism is a form of cheating - both of which are prohibited. If you're found guilty of either offence, you could face consequences such as expulsion and/or the cancellation of your student visa.

Cheating and plagiarism scandals have become more rampant following the rise of artificial intelligence (AI) platforms. While some education providers allow students to use AI, it's important to follow your institution's regulations closely to avoid misusing these tools.



EXAM PERIOD

Know when exams are - You can check with your education provider in advance for when exam periods are. Make sure you don't plan any trips away during this time (including the exam re-sit period).

Visit your exam location - Some exams may be held off-campus, or in locations you're unfamiliar with. To save you from extra worries on exam day, it is recommended that you visit the exam location early, so you know how to get there and how long it will take.

STUDENT RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

SUPPORT SERVICES AVAILABLE TO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

There are many support services you can find through your education provider for free. No matter your needs, help and advice are always available!

CAREERS CENTRE

This office will assist you in creating an effective resume and explain how to complete a job application and prepare for a job interview. They can also help you plan out your graduate career, discover volunteer and internship opportunities, and help you find casual work.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT OFFICE

This office is your best friend. Staff will assist with your orientation, organise social events and answer any questions that relate specifically to international students.

LIBRARY

There is more to the library than just books. Libraries are full of meeting rooms, TVs and computers, which will give you access to your education provider’s online library of eBooks, journal databases and more. Your education provider may also have liaison librarians who are experts at finding information in your discipline.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Your education provider’s dedicated technical support team will be able to help you with questions about your tech, including accessing specific software for your course, storage and more. Some education providers also offer free or discounted access to software packages like Microsoft Office and Adobe Creative Cloud.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

If you need assistance with your studies or are falling behind on your assignments, there are plenty of support services available.

STUDENT LEARNING HUBS

Most educational institutions offer a central learning hub that provides free individual support in specific subjects, as well as activities designed to improve things like English skills, digital literacy, writing and more.

STAFF MEMBERS

Your teaching staff are there to help. If you’re struggling, reach out to them for assistance – it’s their job to provide the advice you need. They can also refer you to other support services.

PRIVATE TUTORING

You can hire a private tutor if you need assistance in a particular subject. You’ll usually find them listed on your education provider’s noticeboard, or you can use the Student VIP website.

studentvip.com.au/tutors 🔍

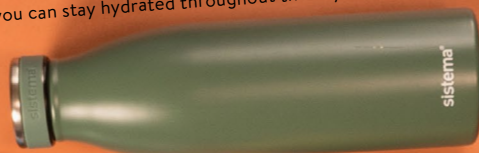
STUDY MELBOURNE HUB VICTORIA

The Study Melbourne Hub Victoria is a dedicated space for international students in Hardware Lane Melbourne. Visit for a place to study, support and advice on everything from accommodation to wellbeing and legal support.

studymelbourne.vic.gov.au/our-study-hubs/study-melbourne-hub-victoria 🔍

Reusable water bottle:

Your campus will have water fountains or refill stations so you can stay hydrated throughout the day.



Hat and sunscreen:

Sun safety is extremely important in Australia, so pack accordingly!

Snacks: For when you need some extra energy (or a little pick-me-up) in between classes.



myki card:
Victoria's "tap and go" public transport card.



Notepad and stationery:

Don't be that one person in class without a pen!



Laptop:

Most learning resources are provided online, so you'll need quality equipment to succeed.

Charging cables:

You don't want to run out of charge halfway through class!



FIRST DAY ESSENTIALS

Ready for your first day of classes? We recommend packing your bag the night before so you don't forget anything. Here are a few essentials you'll need to bring!

STUDY GLOSSARY

There are many terms associated with tertiary education that you may never have heard before. Our glossary of terms will help you understand and make the most of your time studying in Australia.

CENSUS DATE

The date by which you must finalise your enrolment before fees are charged. The last day to withdraw from a course without having it listed on your academic record.

COURSE

The individual unit of study that makes up a program - usually completed in a semester - for which a result is given. Each course will have a coordinator, who is an academic staff member with overall responsibility for teaching.

FULL-TIME

The number of units to be considered 1.0 EFTSL (Equivalent Full-Time Student Load). International students in Australia generally have to be enrolled full-time.

GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)

This score is the average of the results you receive in your program, taking into account different unit values of courses.

ELICOS

An acronym for English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students.

LECTURE

Regular formal presentations of the course material, delivered to a large number of students by an academic staff member.

ORIENTATION (O-WEEK)

A week of activities and information sessions to welcome new students to the university at the start of each semester.

PRACTICAL (PRAC)

Regular sessions where students participate in exercises after a brief presentation and explanation from a tutor.

SEMESTER

The university year for most students will be divided into two semesters. Semester one runs in the first half of the year (Feb-July) and semester two in the second half (Aug-Dec).

TAFE (TECHNICAL AND FURTHER EDUCATION)

These vocational education providers cover a range of subjects and offer various levels of certificates and diplomas. Students receive practical and vocation-oriented education.

TRANSCRIPT (ACADEMIC RECORD)

Official academic transcripts cost money to obtain from your education provider, but graduating students receive one free copy. Unofficial records can be printed using your student login.

TRIMESTER

As opposed to semesters, some education providers' academic years will be broken up into three teaching periods, known as trimesters.

TUTORIAL (TUTE)

An often compulsory small discussion group, led by a tutor, to discuss the material presented in lectures.

VET (VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING)

VET courses are designed to deliver workplace-specific skills and knowledge.

WEIGHTED AVERAGE MARK (WAM)

This is the average mark you've achieved across all completed units in your award course combined with your year level weighting.

CREATING THE PERFECT WORK-FROM-HOME DESK

When it comes to studying for success, location is everything. That's why it's so important to have a great work-from-home set-up. With an awesome at-home study space, you'll find it easier to minimise distractions, concentrate on your work and retain information. Here's everything you need to create the perfect desk.

1. PICK A QUIET SPOT □

When it comes to creating the perfect workspace, location is everything. Try to choose a place that is quiet and free from distractions (such as loud housemates or street noise). Ideally, your desk shouldn't be too close to your bed, either. This will help you set a clear boundary between your workspace and your relaxation space.

2. WRITING MATERIALS □

Always keep a notepad and some pens nearby. Whether you're listening to a lecture or brainstorming ideas for a new project, writing things down is a great way to remember them for longer.

3. STAY FUELLED AND HYDRATED □

Keep some healthy snacks and a bottle of water on your desk. By staying fed and hydrated, you'll improve your brain function, concentration and memory. We recommend nutritious foods like fresh fruit, muesli bars and nuts.

4. ADD SOME PERSONALITY □

Your desk should reflect who you are. So, be sure to add some fun photos of you and your mates, some fresh plants and whatever else you'd like.

5. COMPUTER AND KEYBOARD □

Make sure your computer and keyboard are positioned arm's length away from you. Your computer should be eye-level with you, so you don't have to crouch down to see your screen. With these tips, you'll better maintain your focus - and your posture!

6. A COMPUTER MOUSE □

You're going to be spending long hours at your computer, so you want to make sure your setup is as comfortable and efficient as possible. A great tool to make that goal a reality is a portable computer mouse. With this handy gadget, you'll perform tasks much quicker, easier and more comfortably.

7. LET THERE BE LIGHT □

Add a table lamp to your desk to ensure it's well lit. Having a strong light source will prevent you from straining your eyes while working and studying.



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HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING

HEALTHCARE BASICS

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A GP/MEDICAL CLINIC AND A HOSPITAL?


To put it simply, hospitals are typically for emergencies, while general practitioners (GP) are for non-emergencies.

You should generally only go to a hospital if you are seriously hurt or sick and require urgent medical attention. This includes things like a major injury (e.g. a broken bone), problems with breathing or bleeding, or loss of consciousness.

You should see a GP or visit a medical clinic for non-emergencies. This includes things like the flu or common cold, minor injuries, or ongoing stress or worry.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HEALTHCARE?


Medicare is the public health system that gives some Australian residents free or discounted health services. If you're from a country with a Reciprocal Health Care Agreement (RHCA) you might receive some Medicare benefits, which may be known as Reciprocal Medicare.

servicesaustralia.gov.au/reciprocal-health-care-agreements 

The private healthcare system complements the public healthcare system, or if you're not eligible for Medicare, it helps replace it. There are several private health insurance providers that offer Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC), which you will require as an international student (unless you fall into an exemption category).


WHAT SHOULD I DO WHEN MEDICAL CLINICS ARE CLOSED?

Very few medical clinics are open seven days or have 24-hour services. If you need a medical certificate or have a minor illness, it's best to wait until medical clinics are open. For urgent non-life-threatening enquiries, there are after-hours home doctor services available, including 13 SICK (call 13 74 25) and telehealth, which allows you to consult a healthcare provider by phone or video call. Speak with your doctor to see if they provide telehealth appointments.

You can also ring healthdirect (1800 022 222) to get advice on treating non-life-threatening illnesses, or use the healthdirect symptom checker - healthdirect.gov.au 

If you have a serious injury or illness, visit a hospital with a 24-hour emergency department (ED). In an emergency, call 000 for an ambulance.

HOW DO I FIND A DOCTOR?

Your OSHC provider will likely maintain a list of recommended providers. Their website may even have a 'find a doctor' resource to assist you in finding your nearest doctor. The Healthengine website (healthengine.com.au ) can also help locate a doctor.

WHAT DO I DO IN AN EMERGENCY?

If you have a medical emergency, if there is a fire, or if you need police attention, call 000 (it's entirely free to call).



OVERSEAS STUDENT HEALTH COVER (OSHC)

HOW DOES OSHC WORK?

All students in Australia must have OSHC to cover the entire period of their stay, which would have been arranged when you organised your visa. Certain exceptions apply if you are an international student from Sweden, Norway or Belgium. Every time you go to a medical appointment of any kind, you must take your OSHC card with you, along with photo identification.

WHAT DOES OSHC COVER?

OSHC covers in-hospital and out-of-hospital medical assistance, prescription medications, and emergency ambulance assistance. Hospitals are for emergencies - life threatening situations or an illness/injury that is quickly getting worse.

If you are feeling sick, chat to a GP at a local medical centre or via telehealth first. If you need to visit a hospital, call your OSHC provider to see if you're covered, as the hospital may charge you a fee. Depending on your plan and provider, you may have cover for additional services. Make sure you understand your cover to avoid any unwanted charges.

WHERE CAN I PURCHASE OSHC?

There are a number of OSHC providers in Australia, including ahm OSHC, Allianz Care Australia, Bupa, Medibank and nib. You can find out more about OSHC providers through the PrivateHealth website.

privatehealth.gov.au/health_insurance/overseas/overseas_student_health_cover.htm 

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I HAVE A COMPLAINT ABOUT MY OSHC PROVIDER?

If you face a situation where you feel like you're being taken advantage of or treated unfairly in regards to your OSHC, you can contact the Private Health Insurance Ombudsman (PHIO). It's a free service designed to help you get out of trouble.


ombudsman.gov.au/complaints/private-health-insurance-complaints 

CAN I SWAP OSHC PROVIDERS?

Yes, you can swap OSHC providers at any time. Depending on the terms of your policy, you may incur a fee for cancelling your insurance. Make sure to purchase your new policy before cancelling your old one, to make sure you are covered by insurance at all times.

NAVIGATING COVID-19

COVID continues to be a part of our lives. For more information on COVID rules, symptoms and testing, refer to the Victorian Government and Australian Government websites.

coronavirus.vic.gov.au  australia.gov.au 



MENTAL HEALTH

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I'M FEELING HOMESICK?

Living overseas, being away from your friends and family members, and adjusting to a new culture can be difficult. All these challenges can take a toll on your mental health, which is why it's important to keep an eye on your wellbeing.


In addition to taking time out for yourself, remember that support is available to you if you need help. It can be very beneficial to talk to friends and family about how you feel or use one of the resources mentioned below.


WHERE CAN I SEEK HELP FOR MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES?

Your Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) covers visits to a GP. The GP is the first person you should see, as you will need to get a referral from them if you want to see a psychiatrist or psychologist. Check with your OSHC provider for coverage details for these sessions. Most education providers offer free or discounted counselling services to their students (both international and local). Some require appointments, so check your education provider's website to find out. You can also consult resources like Head to Health, a mental health initiative from the Australian Government.

Study Melbourne offers information on mental health support services available to international students online and via phone. You can also visit the Study Melbourne Hub Victoria for more advice on where to seek help for your mental health.


headtohealth.gov.au 

studymelbourne.vic.gov.au/living-here/your-health-and-safety/mental-health-services 

studymelbourne.vic.gov.au/study-melbourne-hub 

FINDING A MENTAL HEALTH EXPERT THAT SPEAKS YOUR LANGUAGE

If you need an interpreter or translator for mental health services, consult TIS National. They can help you book an appointment and provide an on-site interpreter to attend your session with you.

Phone 131 450 or tisnational.gov.au 

WHAT IF I NEED IMMEDIATE SUPPORT?

There are many organisations that offer 24/7 mental health support over the phone or through an online chat service.

Lifeline delivers crisis support, suicide prevention and mental health support services across Australia.

Phone 13 11 14 or text 0477 13 11 14 (12pm to midnight AEST)

lifeline.org.au 

Beyond Blue supports those who may be experiencing depression, anxiety and other emotional issues.

Phone 1300 224 636

beyondblue.org.au 





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SEXUAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

WHERE CAN I GET ADVICE ON SEXUAL HEALTH?

You can ask your GP about sexual health matters, including sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and contraception options. If you are a woman, you can visit a female GP if that makes you feel more comfortable. Your education provider may also offer sexual health support. It is important to remember that the more sexually active you are, the more often you should get tested for STIs. If left untreated, some STIs can have serious impacts on your health outcomes. For free and confidential advice about contraception options, pregnancy (planned and unplanned) and sexual health, contact 1800 My Options. The Melbourne Sexual Health Centre provides free services to all international students. Sexual Health Victoria is another useful resource.



1800myoptions.org.au  · mshc.org.au  · shvic.org.au 

CONTRACEPTION OPTIONS IN AUSTRALIA

You can get contraceptive medications and devices very easily and cheaply in Australia. If you're interested in long-term contraception, talk to your GP. Condoms and pregnancy tests are available at supermarkets and pharmacies. Emergency contraceptives are also available at pharmacies with no prescription required.

CONSENT



There must be free agreement from everyone involved before engaging in sexual activities, and consent can only be given if it's voluntary and there is no element of coercion, fear or intimidation involved. To learn more about consent, check out our guide to consent in Australia or visit the Victoria Legal Aid website.

insiderguides.com.au/consent-in-australia  legallaid.vic.gov.au/sex-and-law 

WHO CAN I CONTACT IF I HAVE BEEN SEXUALLY HARASSED OR ASSAULTED?

If you have experienced sexual harassment, your first call should be to your institution, as there will be mechanisms in place designed to support you. If you're being threatened and require immediate assistance, or have been the victim of sexual assault, you can visit your local police station or call 000. As well, the Victorian Centres Against Sexual Assault provide free and confidential support for any person who has experienced sexual violence, with locations around Victoria.

If you experience unwanted sexual or anti-social behaviours on public transport, you can text **STOPIT** to the Victoria Police at 0499 455 455 to discreetly report the incident.

police.vic.gov.au/stopit  casahouse.com.au  - Call 1800 806 292

SEXUAL HEALTH AND SAFETY FACTS


- OSHC may cover some of your sexual health care costs. Check the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) to see what's covered!
- If you need language support when you visit your GP or local sexual health clinic, you can use the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) for support.
- Sexual health checks don't need to be awkward! You'll be consulted by trained professionals and everything is 100% confidential.




STAYING SAFE


HOW CAN I STAY SAFE?

When you live and study in Melbourne, you can relax knowing that you're in one of the world's safest cities. However, it's important to understand the security and emergency arrangements of your education provider, accommodation and the local area. Be aware of the potential risks and steps you can take to maintain your safety.



studymelbourne.vic.gov.au/living-here/your-health-and-safety/your-safety 

POLICE IN VICTORIA

In Victoria, friendly police officers and protective services officers are here to protect you and keep you safe. We want everyone to feel welcome and safe in their homes and in public. In an emergency, call Triple Zero (000). You can also contact Crime Stoppers confidentially on 1800 333 000 or online at crimestoppersvic.com.au 

For any advice and non-urgent matters, attend your local police station, call the Police Assistance Line on 131 444 or report online at police.vic.gov.au/police-assistance-line-and-online-reporting 

FAMILY VIOLENCE

Unfortunately, family and domestic violence in married and de facto relationships can happen, either between partners or towards children. Know that Victoria supports respectful relationships and help is available if you're experiencing violence. Safe Steps provides a 24/7 helpline, while inTouch has a support service for multicultural women in Victoria, safesteps.org.au  · intouch.org.au 

DISCRIMINATION


In Australia, it is against the law to be discriminated against based on your ethnicity, language, skin colour, sex and sexuality. There is support available if

you, or someone you know, experience any kind of racism or discrimination. It's important that everyone is comfortable in their environment and feels safe to seek help when necessary. If you are at work, school, on public transport or online, report incidents to the body in charge. The next step is to contact the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission or the Australian Human Rights Commission to report the incident. If you experience violence, abuse or other criminal behaviour, you can call 131 444 for police assistance outside of an emergency situation.

STAY BATTERY SAFE


Many portable devices such as laptops, mobile phones, e-scooters and e-cigarettes contain rechargeable lithium-ion batteries. If a lithium-ion battery is improperly charged, handled, stored or disposed of there is a risk of overheating, catching fire or explosion.

For more information and tips on staying safe, visit Fire Rescue Victoria's website.


frv.vic.gov.au/battery-safety 

FIRE SAFETY

Making sure your home is fire-safe should always be a priority. Smoke alarms are legally required for most residences in Australia. If you live in student accommodation, this will be taken care of for you, but if you're in a private rental, check your smoke alarms and contact your landlord if you have questions.

In addition, there are many things you can do to prevent a fire in your home. Visit Fire Rescue Victoria's website for more information: frv.vic.gov.au 

While it's unlikely you will experience a bushfire in Australia, it's important to be prepared. Use the Vic Emergency website for information on preparing and live updates on incidents and warnings in your area.

emergency.vic.gov.au/respond 

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

SUPPORT FOR YOUR CHILDREN AND SPOUSE

Many international students choose to bring their spouse and children with them when they study in Australia. Some education providers offer language or other support that cover both you and your spouse. If your children are school-age, you'll need to enrol them in school. The Victorian Government Schools International Education Program can provide more information on this.


study.vic.gov.au 

If your children are younger, Melbourne has a wide network of childcare facilities. Your education provider may provide childcare.

For support and information from qualified maternal and child health nurses, call the 24-hour Maternal and Child Health helpline on 13 22 29.

SUPPORT FOR LGBTQIA+ PEOPLE

LGBTQIA+ stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual. QLife is a great resource that provides peer support and guidance over the phone and online for the LGBTQIA+ community.

qlife.org.au 

If you're looking for support services that are sensitive to your cultural needs, or would just like to engage with other LGBTQIA+ students from similar backgrounds, then AGMC is a good resource.

agmc.org.au 

Rainbow Network also has a directory of LGBTQIA+ groups and services all over Victoria through which international students can seek support.


rainbownetwork.com.au 

Located in St Kilda, the Victorian Pride Centre is Australia's first purpose-built centre for LGBTIQ+ communities, complete with spaces where groups and organisations can come together, support one another and share ideas.

pridecentre.org.au 

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES


If you're living with a disability, your education provider will have measures in place to facilitate your studies. Be sure to register your disability with your education provider (you will likely need a medical note to do this). Consult your education provider's website for more information on its disability services and how you can use them.

Find accessible travel routes through Public Transport Victoria to ease your mobility at ptv.vic.gov.au/more/travelling-on-the-network/accessibility 

Locate the nearest accessible public toilets and other public amenities by using the Accessible Australia map - accessibleaustralia.com.au/pois 

SUPPORT FOR ALL INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman investigates complaints about problems that prospective, current or former overseas students have with private education providers in Australia.

ombudsman.gov.au/complaints/international-student-complaints 

The Victorian Ombudsman is an independent and impartial watchdog that investigates complaints about Victorian government agencies, including public universities, TAFE colleges and public schools.

ombudsman.vic.gov.au 

COMBATING CULTURE SHOCK

The importance of self-care cannot be understated. It can be difficult to balance your study, work and social life. At times, you might feel as if you're running low on energy and enthusiasm, and feel like you don't have time to yourself. Adopting positive self-care rituals can help you manage your mental health and maintain a healthier, happier life. Here are some ways fellow international students are practising self-care - you might find some inspiration!

After you arrive in Australia, you may begin to experience culture shock. Culture shock is a feeling of disorientation and discomfort that may occur when you are exposed to unfamiliar customs, social norms and ways of life.

Culture shock generally progresses through four different stages:

- 1. Honeymoon phase:** Initially, you may feel excited and intrigued by the differences between your home country and Australia. You're ready to make new friends, explore and immerse yourself in the experience.
- 2. Frustration phase:** As you begin to encounter more significant differences and challenges, you may start to feel overwhelmed, frustrated or anxious.
- 3. Adjustment phase:** With time and effort, you can start to adapt to the new culture, navigate challenges and develop coping strategies.
- 4. Acceptance phase:** Eventually, you will find yourself feeling more settled within Australia, becoming comfortable in your surroundings and integrating into the community.

As overwhelming as it can be, there are plenty of ways to overcome culture shock! Here are a few ways to combat these feelings of discomfort and settle into Australia with ease.

SOCIALISE WITH INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Make an effort to connect with fellow international students. Because they're in the same situation as you, they'll likely relate to your mixed feelings. Being surrounded by people who understand you can minimise feelings of loneliness that can often come with culture shock.

PERSONALISE YOUR SPACE

Your new room may not feel quite like home right away - but you can change that! Hang up photos and decorations from home, set up some cosy mood lighting and don't forget a plant or two. Adding these personal touches can help you feel more settled and less overwhelmed in your new home.

KEEP AN OPEN MIND

Remember why you chose to study in Australia - to experience something new! Remain open-minded and say yes to new opportunities. Attending events, trying new foods or playing a new sport are all great ways to make the most of life in a new country.

LEVERAGE SUPPORT SERVICES

Reach out to your education provider to see what support services are available to international students experiencing culture shock. Such services might include English language support, employment support, or mental health counselling services, all of which can help if you're struggling to settle into your new surroundings.

STAYING FIT

GYMS

If you're keen to join a gym during your time in Melbourne, there are several options available including Anytime Fitness, Jetts and more. There are also women-only gyms such as Fernwood Fitness. Most universities have gyms and offer students reasonable rates, while some managed accommodation providers have gyms on-site. Your local pool may also include a gym, which is often accessible for a low cost.

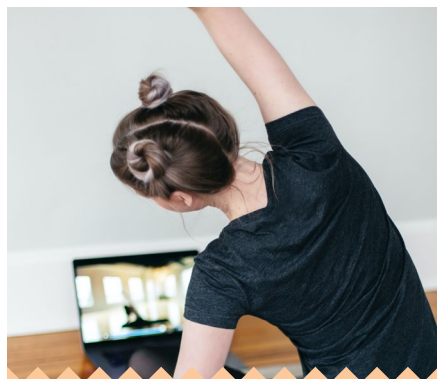
If you don't feel confident in the gym, you can try one-on-one personal training sessions. A personal trainer (PT) will walk you through a set program of exercises, helping you to feel more comfortable in your workouts. While PTs can sometimes be expensive, they may offer discounted rates for students.



GROUP FITNESS CLASSES

There are many different types of group fitness classes you can explore, with varying levels of intensity and movement. Try yoga, Pilates, barre, spinning and so much more at studios across Melbourne.

Popular group workouts also include cross-fit, High-Intensity Interval Training (HIIT) and kickboxing, which are all available at gyms across Melbourne and Victoria.



ONLINE RESOURCES

If you can't or don't want to leave the house to exercise, don't stress! There are many online resources available on YouTube to help you get fit. The Body Coach TV and MadFit are two great options, with workouts of varying lengths that target different areas of the body. You can also try yoga at home guided by Yoga With Adriene, or dance with POPSUGAR Fitness.

SOCIAL SPORTS

If you enjoy a particular sport, you'll most likely find a social sports league near you. Your education provider might even have a team or association dedicated to it, so you can meet like-minded students. Alternatively, check websites such as Meetup or Just Play to find social sport groups. Sports leagues, including basketball, badminton, futsal, volleyball, cricket and more, are available all over Melbourne.

[meetup.com/en-AU](https://www.meetup.com/en-AU) 🔍 · [justplay.com.au](https://www.justplay.com.au) 🔍



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Visit us at qvm.com.au

MAKING FRIENDS

You'll probably meet lots of new people in your course and through your accommodation. But there are also a few other avenues you can take to make new friends.

HOBBIES AND INTERESTS

If your education provider has a student club network, make sure to join one that suits your interests – you're bound to meet one or several like-minded people. You'll find clubs and societies focused on all kinds of things, from individual sports and hobbies to specific cultural backgrounds or religions. Outside of your education provider, think about joining a choir, community garden, sports team, movie or book club, or any other group that matches your interests. Study Melbourne's Everyday Heroes event series - delivered by Insider Guides! - is a great starting point for meeting new people and forming friendships.

studymelbourne.vic.gov.au/events 

STUDY MELBOURNE HUB

Visit the Study Melbourne Hub at 17 Hardware Lane, Melbourne to meet new friends, enjoy cultural experiences, join professional development opportunities or find confidential support services.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

The easiest way to start a conversation with someone new is to simply introduce yourself. After this, it helps to find something in common that you can both talk about.



APPS AND WEBSITES

The key to finding friends might be in the palm of your hand.

There are plenty of great apps and websites designed to help you meet people online (you can decide to meet them in person if you feel comfortable doing so. Bumble for Friends, We3 and Meetup are some of the best. Remember that you won't necessarily 'click' with everyone and that it can take time to make good friends. Don't overthink it and try to have fun meeting lots of new people!

A STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH TO MAKING NEW FRIENDS



INSIDER GUIDES



DATING

If you're planning to date as an international student, it's important to know what to expect. Here's what you need to know about the dating scene in Australia.

WHAT'S THE DATING CULTURE LIKE IN AUSTRALIA?

Australia has a pretty relaxed dating culture. In fact, dating in Australia is about as casual as everything else. Dates are typically very informal. A date could be something as simple as getting a coffee or going to the pub together. It's also not unusual to date more than one person at once, especially when you're first starting to get to know someone.

Australian dating culture is also very accepting and inclusive. So, if you're a member of the LGBTQIA+ community, you'll be welcomed with open arms. Because the dating scene is so progressive, there are no formal rules for who can approach whom. Male, female, non-binary – no matter how you identify, you're more than welcome to make the first move.

Just remember that Australia doesn't have a huge pick-up culture. Generally, people will want to know someone a little bit before they agree to share contact details or hang out somewhere.

WHERE CAN I MEET PEOPLE?

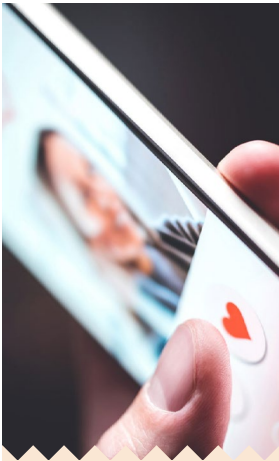
Apps like Tinder, Bumble, Hinge and Happn are popular in Australia and cater to various sexual orientations. There are even apps that cater to specific religions, including Salaam Swipe and JSwipe.

Otherwise, pretty much any place we mentioned under 'Making Friends' is bound to offer opportunities to meet potential dates!

Remember to stay safe on a date. Laws around consent may be different in Australia compared to your country. Refer to **page 48** to find out more about consent in Australia.

**SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE
GUIDANCE ON STAYING SAFE ON
DATING APPS IN AUSTRALIA**

INSIDER GUIDES



DATING APP SAFETY

While dating apps can be a wonderful way to meet new people (and maybe a new partner!), it's important to be aware of the risks of using these platforms. Unfortunately, sexual harassment and inappropriate behaviours can occur on dating apps. With that in mind, make sure you follow these tips for staying safe:

- Set boundaries you feel comfortable with
- Don't share your personal details, such as your address or financial information
- If anyone behaves aggressively or inappropriately towards you, block and/or report them immediately

IMPROVING YOUR ENGLISH

Want to continue improving your English during your time in Australia? Check out these helpful tools and resources to ease your experience.

SPEAKING

- ☐ **Find a language group.** Many international students are looking to improve their English. As a result, there are countless English conversation groups in person and online. Check your local library or community centre, or visit your education provider's website to find out more. There are also plenty of conversation groups on Meetup.com.
- ☐ **Find a friend who also wants to improve their English.** Chat to them in English - including via text message, online, over the phone and in person. Make friends with people from other nationalities so you only communicate in English.
- ☐ **Join a volunteer group or sports team.** That way, you can put your English skills to good use.

READING & LISTENING

- ☐ **Consume English media.** This includes websites, online news, newspapers, magazines and books. Listen to English-language music and podcasts, watch English-language films, television shows and YouTube videos. If you want to really push yourself, try to do so without subtitles!
- ☐ **Go into your local Australian community and listen to the conversations.** You'll be surprised how much you can learn just through observation of the people around you.

WRITING

- ☐ **Write a daily journal in English.** It doesn't matter what you write about, as long as it's in English.
- ☐ **Do translation exercises.** Take a passage from a book or article in your native language and translate it into English, or do the reverse.
- ☐ **Take notes by hand.** This is probably best reserved for when you're watching a lecture online, just in case you need to rewind at any point, but taking notes in English can help you with your writing skills.









"My top pick when it comes to improving your English is to interact with as many people at university as possible. Melbourne is very culturally diverse, but English is the common language, and it helps to talk to more people."

Preetham
**International Student/
 Graduate Entrepreneur
 of the Year**
RMIT University
**Linkedin: /in/preetham-
 akula/**

ENGLISH LANGUAGE RESOURCES

There are a huge range of English language resources available to help you while you're studying in Australia.

In the first instance, always ask your education provider if they offer any English language support. If you'd like to access English language resources from home, we recommend the following websites and apps.

TITLE	LINK	WHAT IS IT?
English Central	englishcentral.com 	A platform full of English language videos that progressively build your comprehension.
ABC Learn English	abc.net.au/education/learn-english 	Designed to help people learning English as an additional language, you'll find listening resources and video courses, along with interesting written articles.
italki	italki.com 	Choose between native speakers and qualified tutors (more expensive) to have a 1-on-1 video chat with you.
Busuu	busuu.com 	A website and mobile app, Busuu is a social network of people learning new languages.
Duolingo	duolingo.com 	With quick, bite-sized lessons, this website and mobile app gives you points for completing activities as well as real-world communication skills.
Grammarly	app.grammarly.com 	A free online writing assistant that will help you find errors while you type, and explain what the issues are.



"One of the best things about studying in Australia has been the opportunity to improve my English. I actively participate in many student activities and events, especially those organised by Study Melbourne. These events have helped me a lot, as they give me the chance to practice English in real-world settings and meet people from different cultures."

Sydney
Federation University Australia
 LinkedIn: /in/sydneynhema/

AUSTRALIAN SLANG

EXPRESSING YOURSELF

AGGRO (ADJECTIVE)

Angry, showing aggression

'He's so aggro at the moment, you should avoid him.'

FAIR ENOUGH (IDIOM)

Alright/OK

'You'll be late? Fair enough, traffic is bad today.'

FERAL (ADJECTIVE)

Disgusting, something repulsive

'I just saw someone drop their hot chips and then continue to eat them off the ground - that's so feral.'

HEY? (EXCLAMATION)

Used at the end of a sentence to ask if someone agrees

'You're going out tonight, hey?'

SHE'LL BE RIGHT (IDIOM)

It will be fine

'You missed the bus? She'll be right, there'll be another one soon.'

KEEN (ADJECTIVE)

Excited for something

'I'm so keen for the new Quentin Tarantino film.'

NO WORRIES (IDIOM)

Don't worry about it/it's OK

'You can't come to the party? No worries!'

AS (ADVERB)

Almost anything could go here: busy as, awesome as, tired as. To understand the speaker, just cut off the 'as' and add 'very' to the front and you'll get what they mean.

'She's been annoying as since she got back from exchange - she won't stop talking about it.'

HEAPS (ADJECTIVE)

A lot or very

'Wow, that show was heaps good.'

FULL-ON (ADJECTIVE)

Intense/wild

'Uni is so full on, I can't keep up with my assignments.'

YEAH, NAH (DETERMINER)

No

NAH, YEAH (DETERMINER)

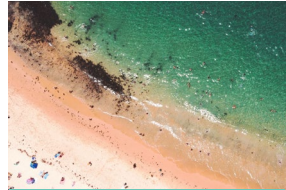
Yes



SNAG (NOUN)

Sausage

'For the best snags, I go to Bunnings Warehouse.'



BATHERS/TOGS (NOUN)

Swimwear

'Remember your bathers so we can swim!'



AVO (NOUN)

Avocado

'I love avo toast with feta cheese.'



GOING OUT

ARVO (NOUN)

Afternoon

'Let's catch up this arvo for a coffee.'

BARBIE (NOUN)

BBQ

'Let's fire up the barbie for dinner tonight.'

BATHERS (NOUN)

Swimming costume

'Remember to bring your bathers, my friend has a pool.'

BREKKY (NOUN)

Breakfast

'I always have a big brekky. I'm so hungry when I wake up in the morning.'

CHEMIST (NOUN)

Drug store/pharmacy -

'We should go pick up some paracetamol from the chemist.'

EFTPOS (NOUN/ACRONYM)

Machine for electronic (card) payments. Stands for Electronic Funds Transfer at Point Of Sale
'Luckily, the café has EFTPOS, because I don't have any cash.'

BOTTLE-O (NOUN)

Liquor store

'I have to go and get some beer from the bottle-o.'

MACCA'S (NOUN)

McDonald's

'I'm too tired to make dinner, shall we go to Macca's instead?'

MATE (NOUN)

Friend (this can be used passive-aggressively though, so pay attention to the situation)
'I like her, she's a good mate, she always has my back.'

MOZZIE (NOUN)

Mosquito

'The mozzies are so bad in the summer.'

RIP-OFF (ADJECTIVE)

To cheat/something that's too expensive

'This brunch is such a rip-off - \$18 for toast?!'

SERVO (NOUN)

Service station/gas station

'On long drives I have to stop at the servo to buy snacks.'

SHOUT (VERB)

To pay for the next round of drinks i.e. 'it's your shout'

'I paid for the last round, so it's your shout this time.'

SPUD (NOUN)

A potato

'I'd love a baked spud with sour cream right about now.'

WHILE STUDYING

BLUDGE (INTRANSITIVE VERB)

To not try your hardest

'He's bludging uni, there's no way he'll graduate.'

SWOTVAC (NOUN/ACRONYM)

Study break/revision week

'I have so much revision to do during SWOTVAC. I shouldn't have slacked off so much during the semester.'

CHUCK A SICKIE (PHRASAL VERB)

To fake a sick day from work or study.

'I can't miss The Bachelor tonight - I'll just call work and chuck a sickie.'

DODGY (ADJECTIVE)

Poor quality/not reliable/suspicious

'That website is dodgy, I'm pretty sure it gave me a virus.'

GOOD ON YA (EXCLAMATION)

Well done/good on you

'Congratulations on that HD! Good on ya!'

HOW YA GOING/HOW'S IT GOING? (SPOKEN PHRASE)

How are you?

RECKON (VERB)

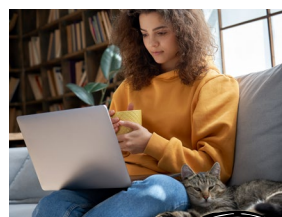
Think/figure/assume

'I reckon I'll go for a run; I've been feeling lazy as.'

UNI (NOUN)

University

'Do you want to walk to uni together?'



CUPPA (NOUN)

Hot beverage

'A hot cuppa tea goes well with biscuits.'



EXPLORING



1 CENTRAL MELBOURNE

CBD • Carlton • Docklands • Southbank

The City Centre is the hub of cultural events and entertainment in Melbourne. Living in the city, you'll have cultural spaces, sporting venues and celebrated foodie spots right at your doorstep - *page 70-71*

2 NORTHERN SUBURBS

**Brunswick • Bundoora • Coburg
Collingwood • Fitzroy • Northcote
North Melbourne • Preston • Thornbury**

Cool street art, cosy wine bars and raucous music venues—the northern suburbs are buzzing with creative energy. With a convenient proximity to several education providers and the CBD, these areas offer a unique atmosphere that's sure to impress - *page 72-73*

3 EASTERN SUBURBS

**Belgrave • Box Hill • Burwood
Hawthorn • Richmond • Ringwood**

Rich in history and culture, Melbourne's east boasts lush green spaces, a lively food and drink scene, and a multicultural community - *page 74-75*

4 BAYSIDE SUBURBS

**Brighton • Frankston • Port Melbourne
Sandringham • South Melbourne
St Kilda**

Ultra colourful and laid-back, Melbourne's bayside has a lively image with an artistic soul. If you're looking for beachside living while being close to education and community services, this is the side of town for you - *page 76-77*

5 SOUTHEASTERN SUBURBS

**Carnegie • Caulfield • Clayton
Cranbourne • Dandenong • Pakenham
Prahran • South Yarra • Springvale**

Fashionable yet relaxed, the southeastern suburbs are premier areas for students. From the chic boutiques of South Yarra to the quirky shops of Carnegie, there's something here for everyone - *page 78-79*

6 WESTERN SUBURBS

**Footscray • Melton • Point Cook
St Albans • Sunshine • Werribee
Williamstown • Yarraville**

In Melbourne's west, you'll find scenic landscapes, wonderful markets and cafes, and a melting pot of cultures from around the world - *page 80-81*

WEATHER



CLIMATE TYPES OF VICTORIA



Summer



Winter

Victoria's climate can be diverse and unpredictable, particularly in Melbourne; the city is famous for having 'four seasons in one day'. Generally, though, summers are hot and dry, with temperatures usually ranging from 14 and 27°C but often reaching 40°C+. Winters are relatively cold, with temperatures typically ranging between 7 and 16°C; however, regional areas are often cooler. Winter also attracts dark, grey skies and a good amount of rain.



SUBPOLAR OCEANIC Falls Creek



17°C - 24°C



8°C - 18°C



WARM-SUMMER MEDITERRANEAN Warrnambool



14°C - 21°C



9°C - 15°C



HOT-SUMMER MEDITERRANEAN Wodonga



17°C - 31°C



4°C - 16°C



OCEANIC Melbourne



14°C - 25°C



6°C - 13°C



HUMID SUBTROPICAL Shepparton



15°C - 28°C



4°C - 17°C



COLD SEMI-ARID Mildura



17°C - 30°C



5°C - 19°C

GEOGRAPHY

Victoria contains several mountain ranges, including the Grampians, Dandenong Ranges, Macedon Ranges and Victorian Alps, as well as dense bushland, plains, and coastal areas. Melbourne sits on a bay and has the Yarra River running through it. The city is relatively flat but is surrounded by hilly areas.

HISTORY OF MELBOURNE

PRE-SETTLEMENT

Known as the Kulin Nation to its Traditional Owners, Australia's First Nations were living in the Melbourne area for around 30,000 years

1835

The city of Melbourne was founded, although there are disputes over its foundation

1851

The Victorian gold rush starts after gold is found in Mount Alexander

1857

Queen Victoria Market is opened

1865

Melbourne becomes the most populated city ahead of Sydney

1901

Australia becomes a united nation through the Federation of Australia. Melbourne is named the capital of Australia

1930

Champion racehorse Phar Lap wins the Melbourne Cup

1956

The Olympic Games are held in Melbourne



1986

The Rialto is built, making it the tallest building in the Southern Hemisphere at the time

2002

Federation Square is opened

2010

Melbourne celebrates its 175th birthday

EARLY 1800S

Several European explorers sail through the area

1847

Queen Victoria officially declares Melbourne a city

1853

The city's first and Australia's second university, the University of Melbourne, is founded

1859

Australia's oldest football (AFL) club, Melbourne Football Club, is established

1889



The first electric tram begins operation between Box Hill and Doncaster

1927

Canberra takes over the title of 'national capital' from Melbourne

1968

The National Gallery of Victoria opens

1996

Melbourne hosts its first Australian Grand Prix

2006

The Commonwealth Games are held in Melbourne

BUILT ON IMMIGRATION

EARLY IMMIGRATION

The first wave of European migration to Melbourne were those of Anglo-Celtic heritage who began to arrive in the 1830s. These migrants displaced the people of the Kulin Nation and started to clear land for the establishment of Melbourne as a city. Increased industry dramatically changed the face of the state, and made Victoria a very prosperous and multicultural place. Over 90% of the gold discovered in Australia was in Victoria, primarily in Bendigo and Ballarat.

THE GOLD RUSH

The 1850s gold rush brought people from around the world to Melbourne and is the first wave of significant migration from China. Around the streets and alleys off Little Bourke Street, you can see the impact of this migration for yourself. Some of the shops and restaurants are located in the same spots as similar establishments dating back to this time.

WORLD WAR II

The end of World War II saw the arrival of displaced people from Italy. The Italian destination of choice was Carlton, and at one point, the suburb had about 30% of its residents coming from Italy. To this day, Lygon Street has retained its Italian identity and is full of Italian cafés, shops and restaurants. The first espresso machine in Melbourne was on this street, sparking Melbourne's now-famous coffee culture.

GREEK POPULATION


Melbourne is said to have the largest Greek-speaking population outside of Europe, higher than most Greek cities. Significant Greek migration occurred from the 1940s to the early 1980s. The Greek impact on Melbourne can be found across the city, but particularly in the area of Lonsdale Street between Swanston Street and Russell Street.

RECENT TIMES

Today, Melbourne is an incredibly diverse city. The most common countries of birth are England, New Zealand, Vietnam, China, Malaysia, India and Indonesia, but there are also significant South Korean, Indonesian and Sri Lankan, Greek and Jewish populations residing in the city.

LEARN MORE

To learn more about Melbourne's migration history and to discover how various cultures have helped shape Australia, make sure to visit the Immigration Museum. Located on Flinders Street in the CBD, the museum is open daily from 10am to 5pm and entry is free for students.

museums.victoria.com.au/immigrationmuseum 

ABORIGINAL CULTURE

The peoples of the Kulin nation are the traditional custodians of the lands where Melbourne (also called Naarm) is situated. The Kulin Nation is an alliance of five different local Aboriginal language groups. These groups are: Boonwurrung (Bun-er-rung), Dja Dja Wurrung (Jar-Jar wurrung), Taungurung (Tung-ger-rung), Wathaurung (Wath-er-rung), and Woio-wurrung (Woy-wur-rung). The area that is now called Melbourne is a significant gathering place for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders today.



Royal Botanic Gardens - Aboriginal Heritage Walk

WELCOME TO COUNTRY

When attending events in Melbourne, you may observe a Welcome to Country or Acknowledgement of Country ceremony. These are two types of important ceremonies that remind the Australian community that the land they live on is owned by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. A Welcome to Country can only be performed by a Traditional Owner/Custodian or a member of the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community who has been granted permission to do so by a Traditional Owner/Custodian.


HISTORY AND CULTURE

The Koorie Heritage Trust is an educational and cultural hub with interesting resources and exhibitions about Aboriginal heritage. Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre at Melbourne Museum has interactive exhibits about Aboriginal culture and history. The Milarri Garden Trail is the place to learn about important plants and waterways of First Nations peoples in southeastern Australia. You can attend an Aboriginal Heritage Walk at the Royal Botanic Gardens, where a First Peoples guide provides insight into local cultural sites, plants and heritage.

Learn more about Victoria's First Peoples: korieheritagetrust.com.au 

FOOD

Australia has many unique native plants and ingredients that First Nations peoples have eaten for thousands of years. If you're hoping to experience them for yourself, there are many places where you can sample these ingredients.

Run by Mabu Mabu Catering, a Torres Strait-owned company, Big Esso is a café located at Federation Square next to Birrarung (the Yarra River). This friendly all-day bar and kitchen is the perfect place to enjoy delicious food made with native ingredients such as saltbush, wattleseed and pepperberry. You can also purchase from their line of small-batch pantry items, Kara Meta, (which means 'our home') online. mabumabu.com.au 



ART

Art is an important aspect of Aboriginal culture and knowledge. In Brunswick, Blak Dot Gallery is a contemporary creative space run by First Nations artists, for First Nations artists. The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia, located in Federation Square, is dedicated to showcasing Australian art. The space features many contemporary and historical works by First Nations artists to explore.

Left: Narana Aboriginal Cultural Centre in Geelong
Right: Narana Creations



MUSIC

Music and dance have important social, cultural and spiritual significance to First Nations peoples. Many traditional instruments - such as the didgeridu, the bullroarer and the gum-leaf - are still used today. Be sure to check out Australia's many celebrated contemporary First Nations artists and bands, including Thelma Plum, Dan Sultan, Baker Boy, A.B. Original and Yothu Yindi.

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL EVENTS

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK

27 MAY – 3 JUNE

National Reconciliation Week acknowledges the mistreatment and displacement of Australia's First Nations peoples. It's a valuable opportunity to learn more about Aboriginal culture and history. The events start on 27 May, the anniversary of the 1967 Referendum, which included Aboriginal people in the census. The celebrations conclude on 3 June, Mabo Day.

MABO DAY

3 JUNE

Mabo Day honours the legacy of Eddie Koiki Mabo, a Meriam man from the Torres Strait Islands. On 3 June 1992, Mabo's activism resulted in a High Court decision, which recognised that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have rights to the lands and waterways of Australia predating British colonisation. It also acknowledged that these rights are ongoing. To commemorate this date, Mabo Day is held annually on 3 June.


NAIDOC WEEK

FIRST SUNDAY IN JULY

In July, NAIDOC week is held across Australia to acknowledge the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC stands for National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee. During the week-long festival, events can be attended on university campuses and in the community.

GETTING AROUND

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Head to the Public Transport Victoria (PTV) website for all public transport enquiries: ptv.vic.gov.au 

TRAMS


Melbourne has an extensive tram network that stretches outward from the city centre. In fact, Melbourne's network is one of the largest in the world. There are 24 tram routes around Melbourne. During peak times, trams will run every seven to 10 minutes. *Trams are free within the centre of the city.*

BUSES

The tram network rules central Melbourne, but if you live in the outer suburbs then buses may be a better option for you. Bus frequency varies depending on the time of day. Popular routes are frequented every 10–15 minutes during peak times, and once every 20 or 30 minutes during the evenings.


TRAINS

Melbourne has 16 train lines stretching from the CBD into the outer suburbs. Trains are an effective solution for travelling to these outer suburbs but can become very busy during peak hours. On busy lines at peak hour, trains can run every four or five minutes. During off-peak times, some trains may only run every 20 minutes.

For ticketing purposes, Melbourne has been divided into two 'zones'. Zone 1 includes the CBD and the inner suburbs, while Zone 2 encompasses the outer suburbs. Traveling only in Zone 2 would incur a lower fare. For more information, visit ptv.vic.gov.au/tickets/fares/metropolitan-fares/ 

E-SCOOTERS

Electric scooters (a.k.a. e-scooters) are a convenient way to get around. Under Victorian law, you can ride private and hire e-scooters in certain areas across the state. Strict rules and regulations - such as wearing a helmet and abiding by speed limits - apply. Offending whilst riding an e-scooter may result in fines or the loss of any driver licence or permit held. E-scooters also commonly contain lithium-ion batteries, which can be a fire risk. Visit [page 49](https://studymelbourne.vic.gov.au/news/e-scooter-safety) for more information.

studymelbourne.vic.gov.au/news/e-scooter-safety 

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT TRAVEL PASS MYKI CARD


The International Student Travel Pass myki card reduces the cost of travel for eligible undergraduate international students by 50%. You can save on 90-day, 180-day or 365-day fare passes. Check the PTV website to see if your institution is participating.



International students are not entitled to general student concession fares in Victoria. Do not purchase student concession tickets as you risk being heavily fined.

STAYING SAFE

Whether you're walking, driving or riding, it's easy to stay safe on and around public transport by being aware, obeying signs and signals, and following some simple rules.

vic.gov.au/public-transport-safety 

THE REUSABLE MYKI CARD IS EASY TO USE – FOLLOW THESE STEPS

Planning your trip around Melbourne is simple and stress-free, thanks to these easy ticketing options. Firstly, you'll want to buy your myki card. These can be purchased from hundreds of retailers across Melbourne, including some train station ticketing offices, or a PTV Hub.

Next, follow these steps.

1. Visit the PTV website to find locations to buy and top up a myki. You can either top up your myki with money (which is good if you don't travel often), or buy a myki Pass for a set time period such as a week (which is ideal if you travel a lot). You can use myki Money on the PTV App to top up using Near-Field Communication (NFC) on both iPhone and Android.
2. Figure out your best public transport route. Use apps like the PTV App, MetroNotifly or Tramtracker or simply ask at a PTV office at a station. Alternatively, consult Google Maps.
3. Touch the physical or digital card to the brightly coloured card reader when you enter and exit a station or vehicle and your fare will be automatically deducted - this is known as 'tapping on' and 'tapping off'. Make sure you use your myki properly, as you can get fined if you haven't tapped on.



DRIVING A CAR

BUYING A CAR

As an international student, you might decide to buy a car to get around. There are a few websites where you can buy a new or used car, such as CarSales or Autotrader, and there are plenty of car dealerships in Melbourne. Check online reviews and ask for recommendations to find a reputable dealer.

It's important to be careful when buying a car, to make sure you get a fair deal and avoid being scammed. Research the make and model of the car you're interested in and get an idea of its market value, common issues and average mileage. This will help you spot unrealistic prices.

If you are buying from a private seller, ask to see service records and a vehicle history report. Meet the seller at a safe location during the day, and make sure to get all contracts and agreements in writing. Sending payment for the car over a secure banking app instead of using cash will ensure you can trace the transaction and report it if needed.

GETTING YOUR LICENCE

To drive a car in Australia, you will need a licence. As an international student in Victoria, you can use a driving licence from your home country for six months. After six months, you will need to obtain a Victorian licence to continue driving.

ROAD SAFETY

Whether you're driving, cycling, or cruising along on a scooter, it's crucial to follow Victoria's road rules to keep yourself and others safe. Failure to comply with these rules could result not only in penalties but in injury.

vicroads.vic.gov.au/safety-and-road-rules/road-rules

RIDING A BIKE

Most international students will spend between A\$700 - \$1500 a year on transport. This makes getting a bike a very cheap alternative.

BUYING A BIKE

If you plan to ride regularly, the cheapest overall option is to buy your own bike to use throughout your time in Melbourne. There are plenty of dedicated bicycle shops around the city, but you can also purchase affordable ones from Kmart.

Second-hand bikes are also great options if you want to save money. Try Facebook Marketplace or Gumtree. You can also use these websites to sell your bike if/when you leave Australia.

BIKE LAWS

It is illegal to ride in Australia without a helmet and you must have a light on your bike if you plan to ride at night. As a bike rider, you're allowed to ride on the road, on bike paths and on shared paths. You usually can't ride on pedestrian footpaths. When you're riding on the road, you're expected to follow the same road rules as drivers. Check out the VicRoads website for more information.

vicroads.vic.gov.au 



BIKE LANES

There are 135km of designated bike lanes and tracks around Melbourne, designed to keep you safe. Key bike lanes include La Trobe Street and St Kilda Road. You can contact your local council for an up-to-date bike map.

melbourne.vic.gov.au/cycling 

LOOKING AFTER AND STORING YOUR BIKE

RACV Bike Assist is available to assist cyclists after accidents or mechanical issues. They will either fix the problem or provide you with a taxi to continue your journey.

racv.com.au 


Parkiteer bike storage cages are available at train stations. If it's too far to ride to university or the city centre, ride to your nearest train station and store your bike there instead.

bicyclenetwork.com.au/our-services/parkiteer 

RENTING A BIKE

If you don't cycle very often, but want to occasionally, your best option is to rent a bike. Around the city, you'll see electric Lime bikes available for hire. To rent one of these bikes, you'll need the Lime app on your phone.

Once you find a bike (on the map on the app or the street), you'll scan its QR code on your phone to start the ride. After arriving at your destination, you simply end the ride on your phone. You'll be charged an initial fee to unlock the vehicle and then a fixed rate per minute that you ride.

help.li.me/hc/en-au 

OTHER TRANSPORT OPTIONS

TAXIS


Taxis are another way to get around Melbourne. You can book one through an app, on the phone, online, by hailing one on the street or by finding one at a rank. When the dome light (on the roof) is lit up, the taxi is available for hire.

Melbourne's major taxi companies include:

- 13 CABS (132 227) - 13cabs.com.au 
- Silver Top Taxis (131 008) - silvertop.com.au 
- Crown Cabs (1300 12 13 14) - crownccabs.com.au 

RENTING A CAR

If you want to explore some of Melbourne's outer suburbs or regional areas surrounding the city, you can rent a car for one or multiple days. There are several car rental providers around Melbourne – use a comparison website like VroomVroomVroom to find the best deal.

vroomvroomvroom.com.au 

RIDESHARING


The first to launch, and still by far the most popular ridesharing app, is Uber. A recent addition has been Uber Pool, allowing you to reduce your fare by sharing with others heading in a similar direction.

Other companies in the Melbourne market include GoCatch, DiDi and Ola, offering discounted rates during quiet hours of the day. The most unique ride sharing option available in Melbourne is the female-only service, Shebah. All drivers and all passengers of the service are female, with the exception being males under 18 travelling with a female, and many cars come with car seats available.

TRAVEL AROUND VICTORIA AND INTERSTATE

If you're interested in exploring Victoria and the rest of Australia, there are a few ways to get around.

V/Line buses and trains can transport you to regional areas near Melbourne, such as Ballarat, Bendigo and Geelong. From Southern Cross Station, you can also catch train and coach services to the ACT, NSW and South Australia. There is also a ferry connection to Tasmania.

ptv.vic.gov.au/more/travelling-on-the-network/interstate-travel 

If you're looking to travel further interstate, you may choose to fly from one of Melbourne's two airports: Melbourne Airport (Tullamarine) or Avalon Airport.

Another way to explore Australia is by taking a road trip with friends. If you decide to drive interstate, remember that the road rules are different in each country and you will need to be careful to follow the speed limits and other driving laws.

CENTRAL MELBOURNE

CBD • DOCKLANDS

SOUTHBANK • CARLTON



Central Melbourne is the beating heart of the inner-city; food, culture, sport, shopping and entertainment await you here amongst the towering skyscrapers and hidden laneways.

HIGHLIGHTS

FOOD

As all Melbournians know, your day begins with good coffee and breakfast. For a tasty, budget-friendly fix head to Shortstop Coffee and Donuts in the CBD. For a bigger plate and a hip vibe, try Workshop Bros in Southbank or Higher Ground opposite Southern Cross Station.

If you're after a cheap and filling lunch, Soi 38 is a must-try spot. Tucked away under a parking garage off Bourke Street, this place dishes out seriously good Thai food with all plates \$20 or under.

When dinner calls, Lygon Street answers. Home to some of Central Melbourne's best restaurants, places like Papa Gino's, Donnini's and Universal Restaurant have

been operating here for over 50 years. If you're ready to splash some cash along Carlton's iconic Italian strip, try Johnny, Vince and Sam's, owned by Melbourne's famous TikTok comedy group Sooshi Mango.

SHOPPING

Between Melbourne Central, Emporium, QV and the Bourke Street Mall, all your retail needs will be covered in the CBD. If you love a bargain, head across the river to explore the outlets at DFO South Wharf or score some treasures at vintage stores like RetroStar and Vintage Sole.

Don't miss a trip to the Queen Victoria Market—the largest open-air market in the southern hemisphere. You will find everything from fresh produce to artisanal goods, clothing, gifts and souvenirs. The market also hosts regular special events throughout the year, such as night festivals and craft fairs.

NIGHTLIFE

Sunny afternoons call for a visit to famed CBD rooftop bars like Whitehart Bar, Section 8 and Loop Roof. Come back down to Earth with a trip to rock'n'roll joints Heartbreaker and Cherry Bar, before heading underground for jazz at Beneath Driver Lane.

In Carlton, Heartattack and Vine offers tasty, budget-friendly wine and tapas, while over in Southbank, it's hard to miss the crowds spilling out of Arbory Bar and Eatery.

CULTURE AND ARTS

Melbourne is known as the cultural capital of Australia—and for good reason! Art lovers will want plenty of time to explore the awesome collections at the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV). We also recommend checking out THE LUME, the world's largest digital art gallery.

Above: City Centre skyline

Film buffs will adore the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI) and cheap Monday movie tickets at Carlton's Cinema Nova. Don't miss the Melbourne International Film Festival each year in August.

Catch a live show or musical in the East End Theatre District or the Southbank Theatre, and keep your eyes peeled for cheap seats at the annual Melbourne International Comedy Festival.

Finally, head to the Koorie Heritage Trust at Federation Square, where you can learn about Victoria's First Nations peoples.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

You can find study spots, free Wi-Fi and printing services at the State Library of Victoria. For borrowing books, booking study spaces, English conversation practice and community events, visit the City Library on Flinders Lane, narm ngarrgu Library at Queen Victoria Market, Library at The Dock in Docklands, Southbank's Library at Boyd, or Kathleen Syrne Library in Carlton.

There are plenty of places of worship in the area, including the Islamic Council of Victoria (ICV) City Mosque on Jeffcott Street, the Melbourne Madinah on Exhibition Street and St Paul's Cathedral on Flinders Street. You can also usually find prayer rooms at universities and colleges.

Looking to work up a sweat? Most universities have a gym on campus or you can head to the Melbourne City Baths, where you can access the facilities at a discounted student rate.

Visit your education provider's website to learn more about the medical services on offer. For example, Medical Hub @ RMIT on Swanson Street has a range of practitioners and offers translation services if needed.

International students can also head to the Study Melbourne Hub on Hardware Lane for guidance on everything from accommodation to academia to legal support.

UNIQUE EXPERIENCES

VISIT THE BREATHTAKING BOTANIC GARDENS

Melbourne's crown jewel is the Royal Botanic Gardens. Just across the river from the CBD, you can stroll through 38 acres of parkland and explore over 8,000 different plant species. Wander on your own or consider taking an Aboriginal Heritage Walk to learn about the gardens' ties to the Kulin Nation.

SING YOUR HEART OUT AT KARAOKE

If you love belting out a tune, there are plenty of amazing karaoke bars to explore in and around the CBD.

Enjoy a private room or perform for a crowd at spots like KBOX or Heroes Bar. Make sure you check out the city's first coin-operated booths at Kono Coin Karaoke, which can fit up to five people.



Above: Pídapipó, Carlton

NORTHERN SUBURBS

NORTH MELBOURNE • BRUNSWICK

FITZROY • COLLINGWOOD

COBURG • PRESTON • NORTHCOTE

THORNBURY • BUNDOORA



Trendy and eclectic, Melbourne's northern suburbs are buzzing with creative energy, unique fashion and cool places to explore.

HIGHLIGHTS

FOOD

Get your breakfast fix at hip cafes like Terror Twilight in Collingwood or Vorea Polaris in Bundoora. Wake up a little early and roll over to Bread Club in North Melbourne for a heavenly selection of pastries.

When lunchtime comes around, head to Citrus in Fitzroy North for all-you-can-eat Sri Lankan food or Very Good Falafel in Brunswick, both of which have delectable vegetarian and vegan options for under \$20.

Dinner time means hitting High Street in Northcote and Thornbury. Pizza Meine Liebe and Farro Pizzeria serve up some serious slices. If you're around on a Sunday, head to Curry Cafe for \$10 bowls of curry and drink specials.

SHOPPING

Step back in time along Brunswick Street and Smith Street in Fitzroy with vintage shopping. Check out Vintage Garage, Smith Street Bazaar and Lost and Found Market for trendy clothes and accessories.

Preston Market, opposite the train station, is an icon of the northern suburbs. Here you'll find an infinite collection of stores selling fresh produce, ready-made meals and colourful homewares. Don't forget to check out the fresh produce and local artisan goods at the Bundoora Kingsbury Drive Community Markets on Sundays, too.

Head to Brunswick to find European products at Mediterranean Wholesalers, Middle Eastern and South American items at Al Fajr Supermarket and Indian products at Hayat Grocers.

NIGHTLIFE

If you dig live music, rub shoulders with die-hard locals at The Night Cat in Fitzroy, The Northcote Social Club in Northcote or The Croxton in Thornbury—some of Melbourne's most iconic venues.

For refined cocktails (and mocktails!) The Everleigh in Collingwood offers a stylish experience. Alternatively, the Town Hall Hotel in North Melbourne provides cheap brews and raucous Tuesday trivia nights.

CULTURE AND ARTS

Whether you're in a gallery or on the street, art abounds in Melbourne's north. In Collingwood, visit the Lamington Drive

Top left: Blackcat, Brunswick Street, Fitzroy

gallery, which showcases an eclectic collection of works by emerging artists.

Catch a live performance or show in Brunswick at the Eagle's Nest Theatre or Brunswick Mechanics Institute. North Melbourne's Club Voltaire is also a must-visit, offering a wide range of live entertainment, from comedy to cabaret.

In Thornbury, visit the Islamic Museum of Australia to learn about architecture, calligraphy, painting, ceramics and textiles.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

With a public library in almost every suburb, you won't struggle to find study spaces, free Wi-Fi and community support. The North Melbourne Library offers free community events and English conversation groups as well as interpreting services.

If you'd like to learn a skill and meet new people, community centres like the Bundoora Community Centre and Bargoonga Nganjin in Fitzroy North host regular creative workshops. Bargoonga Nganjin also runs a free community lunch each Saturday, with vegan, vegetarian and halal options on offer.

The northern suburbs also house many places of worship, so you'll be sure to find somewhere to practice your faith. North Melbourne is home to the Central Chinese Baptist Church and the Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral. At the BSN Central Mosque in Fitzroy, services are held in both English and Turkish.

If you're feeling unwell and want to see a doctor, there are many medical practices nearby, some of which offer services in other languages. You may also be able to access health services through your university—learn more through their website.

Staying active is key to remaining healthy throughout your studies. Check out the Fitzroy Swimming Pool, which offers discounted rates for students. Alternatively, walk, run or cycle through beautiful green spaces like Bundoora Park or Coburg Lake Reserve.

UNIQUE EXPERIENCES

GET WILD AT MELBOURNE ZOO

Australia is home to some of the most fascinating animals on the planet, so don't miss your chance to see them for yourself at Melbourne Zoo. With so much to see, it's worth spending a whole day here!

GO BACK IN TIME TO BUNDOORA HOMESTEAD

If you want to see Australian history first-hand, make sure you check out Bundoora Homestead Art Centre. Built in 1900 on the lands of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people, this arts centre hosts exhibitions, workshops and events throughout the year.



Above: Bundoora Homestead

EASTERN SUBURBS

RICHMOND • HAWTHORN

BOX HILL • BURWOOD

RINGWOOD • BELGRAVE



The leafy suburbs of Melbourne's east paint a pretty picture, with quaint cafes, sprawling green spaces and delightful views of the city.

HIGHLIGHTS

FOOD

In Richmond, start your morning at Rowena Corner Store for a Mediterranean-inspired breakfast in a cosy setting. Check out Teddy Bakery in Burwood for pastries and specialty coffee, or visit FooMoo Cafe on the Deakin University Campus for tasty and filling meals.

Box Hill is home to some of the best Asian restaurants in Melbourne. Make sure you check out Kitchen Republik for Taiwanese, Dainty Sichuan for hotpot and VegieHut for vegetarian Chinese.

If you're after Vietnamese food, head to iconic Victoria Street in Richmond. Grab a steaming bowl of pho from Pho Chu The, or hit up Ca Com Banh Mi Bar for arguably the best sandwich in Melbourne.

SHOPPING

In need of retail therapy? Head to Richmond's Victoria Gardens Shopping Centre; you'll find everything from popular chains to specialty stores. Alternatively, find a range of excellent specialty stores at Burwood's Brickworks Shopping Centre.

There are fantastic Asian grocers in Melbourne's east, including Circle G in Richmond, Hu Hui Asian Supermarket in Burwood and Yang Yang Asian Grocery in Box Hill. Over in Hawthorn, check out Surabhi Groceries for Indian goods or pick up European staples at Continental Deli.

For fresh produce and local artisan goods, head to the Boroondara Farmers Market in Hawthorn, open fortnightly on a Saturday, or the Belgrave Big Dreams Market, held once a month on a Sunday.

NIGHTLIFE

In the eastern suburbs you'll find plenty of places to try fresh local beers. Make sure you check out Moon Dog OG, Carlton Brewhouse and Mountain Goat Brewery in Richmond. Over in Burwood, the New Northcote Brewhouse is the perfect place to find a tasty pub meal in a relaxed setting. In Ringwood, you'll find a comfortable spot at 8 Track Brewery.

Take advantage of sunny afternoons with a visit to Richmond's gastropubs. Hang out on the Corner Hotel's cool rooftop terrace, or sip on some of the area's best cocktails at The Ugly Duckling.

Top: Box Hill Gardens, Box Hill

CULTURE AND ARTS

In Hawthorn, cheap Tuesdays reign supreme at beloved Lido Cinemas. A ticket to a flick will set you back \$12, and it's even cheaper if you're a Movie Club member (it's free to sign up too)! In Belgrave, you'll find Cameo Cinemas; housed in a stunning art deco building, this place has been operating since 1935.

Many art galleries call Richmond home, including the Lennox St. Gallery, where you'll find a curious collection of contemporary pieces. In Burwood, the Deakin University Art Gallery is free for all to visit, and hosts exciting exhibitions throughout the year.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Hawthorn Community House has a range of regular programs for those wanting to learn a new skill. These include language courses, creative and art classes and fitness groups, all for an affordable term-based fee. Alternatively, join a choir, learn to dance or sign up for a creative class at the Box Hill Community Arts Centre.

In the eastern suburbs, there are plenty of churches covering many Christian denominations, such as the Chinese Lutheran Church in Box Hill and the Chinese Christian Church in Hawthorn. You'll find the Melbourne Thai Buddhist Temple in Box Hill or the Chùa Phước Tường Buddhist Temple in Richmond. Hawthorn is home to the Ark Centre as well, a warm and welcoming Synagogue and Jewish community centre. Deakin University's Burwood Campus Musalla offers wudu washing facilities and a separate women's area, and you can find prayer rooms at the Swinburne University campus in Hawthorn.

If you're unwell or injured, there are many medical centres in the area. Some surgeries even offer appointments in other languages. For example, Hawthorn Medical has

appointments available in Tamil, while Box Hill Medical Centre has doctors who speak Cantonese, Mandarin, Nepali, Hindi, Urdu and Ukrainian.

Getting regular exercise is the perfect way to look after your mind and body throughout your studies. The Richmond Recreation Centre offers discounted memberships for students wanting to access their gyms, regular fitness classes, indoor pool, spa and sauna. Alternatively, Deakin University's Burwood Fitness Centre has awesome classes, cutting-edge gym equipment and plenty of sporting courts and stadiums for hire.

UNIQUE EXPERIENCES

CATCH A GAME AT THE MCG

The Melbourne Cricket Ground, also known as the MCG or simply the G, forms the heart of this sport-loving city. Watching an AFL (Australian Football League) game here is an essential Melbourne experience.

DISCOVER AN ICON AT THE MELBOURNE TRAM MUSEUM

Melbourne's trams are so iconic they've come to represent the city itself. You can learn all about these wondrous machines at the Tram Museum in Hawthorn. For the price of a gold coin donation, you can wander through over 100 years of tram history, all housed in a heritage-listed former depot.



Above: Box Hill Central, Box Hill

BAYSIDE SUBURBS

PORT MELBOURNE • SOUTH

MELBOURNE • ST KILDA

BRIGHTON • SANDRINGHAM

FRANKSTON



Known for its laid-back vibes and community spirit, Melbourne's bayside will charm you the moment you glimpse those spectacular ocean views.

HIGHLIGHTS

FOOD

For a dreamy start to your day, it's hard to beat Juniper in South Melbourne—think cosy decor and generous servings. Further along the bay, Port of Call in Sandringham offers a brilliant all-day brunch menu in a spacious setting—it's the perfect study spot when the library starts to feel stuffy.

If you're in a rush or have a sweet tooth, swing by St Kilda for a tasty treat from Rye and Dough or Woodfrog Bakery.

No trip to Brighton is complete without a meal at Royale Brothers. These are arguably some of the best burgers in Melbourne. Alternatively, the South Melbourne Market is great for grab-and-go takeaway from Agathé Pâtisserie, Köy Gözleme or Mama Tran Dumpling.

Geonbae in Frankston dishes up some of the best Korean food along the bay—steaming bowls of Kimchi Jjigae and Silken Tofu Stew are served here for less than \$20 and make for a comforting dinner.

SHOPPING

The South Melbourne Market is perhaps the most famous shopping destination in this area. Get lost amongst the endless corridors of stalls and shops selling homewares, clothing, ceramics, plants and so much more. Make sure to go on an empty stomach, too.

While you're in the area, hit up some of the cool local boutiques, like Made in Japan for quality kitchenware and Paperpoint for cute stationary.

If you're looking for fresh local produce or presents for friends and family, the Little Beauty Market in Frankston is held once a month in picturesque Beauty Park.

NIGHTLIFE

When it comes to nightlife, it's hard to beat an outing to Acland Street Village in St Kilda—the variety of bars and restaurants along this strip is astounding. Just around the corner, you'll find the famous Bayside institution Hotel Esplanade, fondly nicknamed 'The Espy'. Pop in for a drink, a meal or some live music.

For a sophisticated occasion, head to La Petite Societe in Brighton. Located right next to Middle Brighton train station, this charming spot serves up \$15 margaritas on a Wednesday and \$11 glasses of wine on a Thursday.

Top left: St Kilda Beach and Foreshore

CULTURE AND ARTS

Bayside has a deeply artistic soul—you can feel it in the street art and architecture. Be sure to catch an independent show at Theatre Works in St Kilda. They offer excellent concession ticket prices for students.

The Frankston Arts Centre is a buzzing community hub with a non-stop calendar of events, including theatre shows, classes and workshops, festivals and art exhibitions.

Museum lovers should definitely check out the Geoffrey Kaye Museum of Anaesthetic History in South Melbourne and the Jewish Museum of Australia in St Kilda.

For something truly unique, check out Metartworld in Port Melbourne—it's a one-of-a-kind gallery housing the world's largest collection of scrap metal artwork.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Looking for a comfortable place with free Wi-Fi for your next study session? You'll find it at your nearest public library, such as Port Melbourne Library, St Kilda Library or Albert Park Library in South Melbourne.

If you're looking for support with your English language skills, St Kilda Library offers a free conversation club every Tuesday afternoon.

You'll have no trouble finding faith centres and communities in Melbourne's bayside. Local synagogues include Beit Ahron in St Kilda East and Temple Beth Israel in St Kilda. There are plenty of places nearby to practice the Christian faith, including St Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Frankston, St Cuthberts Presbyterian Church in Brighton and All Souls Anglican Church in Sandringham. For followers of Buddhism, the Tara Institute in Brighton offers guidance, meditation and classes throughout the week.

There are many medical practices which offer appointments in languages other than English. For example, Medical Centre Frankston doctors have language skills in Mandarin, Farsi, Sinhala, Hindi and Malayalam. If you're experiencing a medical emergency, you can attend the Alfred Hospital's emergency department or the Frankston Hospital emergency room.

When it's time to work up a sweat or cool off in the pool, you have plenty of options! The Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre (MSAC) in South Melbourne offers discounted rates for full-time students. Don't forget to check out Parkrun across the road at Albert Park Lake every Saturday morning.

UNIQUE EXPERIENCES

VISIT THE ICONIC LUNA PARK

Situated on St Kilda's stunning beachfront, Luna Park is one of the most recognisable tourist destinations in Australia. Open to the public since 1912, Luna Park offers plenty of fun and excitement, including thrill rides, chill rides and the ever-popular scenic railway.

PLAN YOUR GREAT ESCAPE

Do you want a fun activity that will stretch your puzzle-solving skills to the limit? Escape Room Melbourne in South Melbourne offers fantastic options with cool themes that are sure to keep you guessing to the last second.



Above: Frankston foreshore, Frankston

SOUTHEASTERN SUBURBS

SOUTH YARRA • PRAHRAN

CAULFIELD • CARNEGIE

CLAYTON • SPRINGVALE

DANDENONG • CRANBOURNE



Melbourne's southeast is a diverse patchwork of suburbs brimming with distinct personalities, iconic eateries and hip watering holes.

HIGHLIGHTS

FOOD

Start your morning with a brew at Commonfolk in South Yarra—this place is a strong contender for serving up the best coffee south of the Yarra River. Alternatively, grab a fresh loaf from Baker Bleu in Caulfield North—your morning toast will never taste better.

If you're after a cheap and filling lunch, head to Monash University's Clayton Campus Centre and take your pick—there's Japanese, Mexican, Malaysian and Vietnamese cuisine all on offer.

Chapel Street runs through Prahran and is home to a wide array of eateries. Check out Maker and Monger for the most sensational grilled cheese sandwich, or Leonard's House of Love for delicious fried chicken (and pickleback shots)!

SHOPPING

If it's time to stock the pantry, Caulfield Village shopping centre and Clayton Shopping Plaza are both home to a great range of supermarkets, small grocers and specialty stores. You can find plenty of international shops nearby stocking imported goods from all over the world.

It's well worth checking out the bustling Prahran Market, where you can stock up on fresh produce, meat or seafood. It also hosts a number of other stalls, stocking everything from artisan goods to specialty foods and even homewares and gifts. Springvale and Dandenong Markets are famous for their variety of goods, affordable fresh produce and incredible street food. They're also both near train stations, making them easily accessible without a car.

NIGHTLIFE

If you're going out for a night on the town, head to Chapel Street. Home to a wide variety of bars, pubs and clubs, you'll find something there for every budget and taste. Lucky Coq is a favourite for cheap drinks and \$5 pizza specials, all day every day.

To enjoy local beers and live music, head to Two Rupees Brewing Company in Clayton. For awesome specials every night of the week, you can't go past The Bank in Carnegie.

CULTURE AND ARTS

The southeastern suburbs might not have the eclectic reputation of Melbourne's north, but they still play host to some of the city's best arts and culture.

Top left: Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne

The Monash University Museum of Art (MUMA) has an amazing collection of over 2,000 contemporary artworks. Entry is free for all.

The Cardinia Cultural Centre in Pakenham hosts a wonderful lineup of professional and community performers throughout the year, while the Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre in Dandenong sponsors regular exhibitions and talks by Australian artists.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

In need of free Wi-Fi for your next study session? You'll find it at your nearest public library, such as Toorak/South Yarra Library, Prahran Square Library or Carnegie Library and Community Centre. You can head to Caulfield Library to find books in Russian and Hebrew, or use their online language services to assist in your learning.

Caulfield is home to Australia's largest Jewish population, so you'll have no trouble finding a synagogue near you, like the Caulfield Hebrew Congregation and the Beit HaMashiach Messianic Congregation.

There are plenty of places nearby to practice the Christian faith, including Catholic churches like St Mary's Catholic Church in Dandenong or the Cranbourne Baptist Community Church. You can attend Christian services in Bahasa Indonesia at the Caulfield Indonesian Uniting Church. For Islamic services, head to the Huntingdale Mosque near Clayton. In nearby Narre Warren, you'll find the Islamic Education and Welfare Association of Dandenong.

There are lots of great medical practices in the southeastern suburbs, many of which offer appointments in languages other than English. For example, the Prahran Square Family Clinic has doctors who speak Arabic languages, Hindi, Urdu and Telugu, while the Clayton Road Doctors offer appointments in Korean, Japanese, Hindi and Punjabi. If



you're experiencing a medical emergency, Monash Medical Centre and Dandenong Hospital can help.

When you're ready to hit the gym, there are plenty of options to choose from. Caulfield Recreation Centre and Clayton Aquatics and Health Club offer memberships for their gyms, pools and other services. They also have discounted rates for full-time students.

UNIQUE EXPERIENCES

TAKE IN A SHOW AT CHAPEL OFF CHAPEL

Theatre lovers rejoice! Prahran's famous venue Chapel Off Chapel is here to liven up your nights with live music, musicals, cabaret and more. While you're there, make sure you take some time to admire the stunning architecture of the old church, which was originally built in 1858!

GO FOR A SWIM AT BRIGHTON BEACH

The golden sands and clear blue waters of Brighton Beach make it a popular bathing spot for Melbournians on a hot day. What makes it even more memorable are the colourful, heritage bathing boxes that line the shore. They're very unique and oh-so-instagrammable.

Above: Brighton Beach Huts

WESTERN SUBURBS

WILLIAMSTOWN • YARRAVILLE

FOOTSCRAY • SUNSHINE

WERRIBEE • POINT COOK

MELTON • ST ALBANS



From the community vibes of Sunshine to the hip, urban streets of Footscray, the west is home to some of Melbourne's best hidden gems.

HIGHLIGHTS

FOOD

With plenty of amazing cafés in the area, it's easy to find great coffee in the west. Make sure you check out Footscray Milking Station, The Granary Cafe in Sunshine and Madison Coffee and Corner Store in Yarraville for wonderfully curated menus with diverse options.

For a cheap and cheerful lunch, head to Sunshine for pho from Pho Hien Saigon or a fresh and filling banh mi at Selina Hot Bread & Cakes.

For a satisfying dinner, Roti Road in Footscray has delicious Malaysian meals, all of which are halal, while Tandoori Times in Yarraville has an awesome menu of delectable Indian dishes, including plenty of vegan options.

SHOPPING

Metro West Shopping Centre in Footscray, the Yarraville Square Shopping Centre and Sunshine Marketplace are perfect for stocking up on groceries and other household essentials. There's also a Kmart at Footscray Plaza if you're looking for affordable homewares or furniture.

As a thriving multicultural area, you'll find it easy to pick up imported goods from international grocers, like Tam Tam Asian Grocery in Sunshine, Bharat Traders in Footscray and Melton Indian Grocery in Woodgrove Shopping Centre.

Don't miss a trip to one of the area's many bustling markets for affordable, fresh produce. The best include the Footscray Market and St Albans Market—both are open Wednesday to Saturday and are easily accessible via public transport.

NIGHTLIFE

In Sunshine, make sure to stop by the Derrimut Hotel or the Westend Market Hotel, both of which offer cold drinks and classic Australian meals in a laid-back environment.

In Footscray, hit up Hail Lilith for delicious drinks and their fantastic plant-based menu, while over in Yarraville, head to Ms Botanica for classic cocktails and vintage vibes.

If you're out and about in Werribee, stop in at The Park Hotel for some seriously good pub grub and affordable drinks. They also have an entirely separate plant based menu on offer.

Top left: The Sun Theatre. Yarraville

CULTURE AND ARTS

If you're a lover of cinema, the Sun Theatre in Yarraville is a must-visit destination. Originally opened in 1938, this place has gone through many transformations over the years, but retains its old-world charm. Tickets are \$14 on Mondays and Tuesdays, and the choc tops are insanely tasty.

In sunny Williamstown, try out a Thursday evening art class at Westside Arts Studio, or have a wander through a local art exhibition at Footscray Community Arts.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Your local public library is the perfect place to go for free Wi-Fi, study areas and affordable printing and scanning facilities. Footscray Library also holds a fortnightly conversation café, and Brimbank Libraries Sunshine hosts a weekly English practice class. Williamstown Library holds specialist Indigenous and Maritime history collections for your research needs.

Footscray is home to a number of places of worship, including the Heavenly Queen Taoist Temple, the Vietnamese Evangelical Church, the St Ilija Macedonian Orthodox Church, Sunshine Mosque and the Khalid Bin Waleed Mosque in Albion. Alternatively, head to the Greek Orthodox Church of St Andrew in Sunshine and the Belarusian Orthodox Church in Yarraville. For followers of Islam, there are many religious centres in Melbourne's west, including Markaz AbuBakr Mosque in St Albans and Melbourne Grand Mosque in Tarneit, near Werribee.

Many local medical practices offer appointments in different languages. Point Cook Doctors at Stockland offer consultations in Farsi, Kannada, Telugu and Hindi. Both Footscray Hospital and Sunshine Hospital have emergency departments you can visit if you require immediate medical help.

If you want to get fit, Sunshine Leisure Centre and the Victoria University Aquatic and Fitness Centre offer discounted memberships for students, through which you can access their gyms, fitness classes, pools and more. Alternatively, soak up some fresh air and sunshine while you walk, run or cycle through Footscray Park, which lies alongside the picturesque Maribyrnong River.

UNIQUE EXPERIENCES

GET BACK TO NATURE IN SUNSHINE

Embrace the warm weather by packing a picnic and heading to Sunshine to explore some of the area's many amazing green spaces. In particular, make sure you take a leisurely stroll through the delightfully manicured lawns and well-tended flowerbeds at the HV McKay Memorial Gardens. Alternatively, head to West Sunshine to walk, run or cycle the beautiful Kororoit Creek Trail.

BE ONE WITH THE ANIMALS AT WERRIBEE OPEN RANGE ZOO

Head out on safari for a magical adventure along the plains at Werribee Open Range Zoo. The newest member of Werribee's animal kingdom includes Jabulani, a young rhino calf, who you can spot amongst the lions, cheetahs and giraffes (and so many other incredible animals)!



Above: Footscray Park. Footscray

REGIONAL VICTORIA

There are so many incredible regional centres in Victoria to live and study in as an international student. Here are just a few examples, each with excellent education provider options.



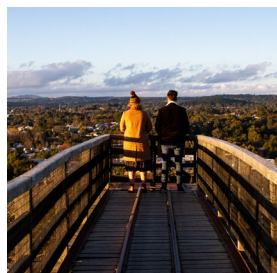
1 BALLARAT □

115 km from MEL

Ballarat is a place where the past and future meet. Steeped in the history of Australia's gold rush and home to leading education providers, Ballarat is Australia's third-largest inland city. It offers students the best of both worlds, blending the classic charm of a small town with all the benefits of urban life.

Situated just an hour and a half by car or train from Melbourne, this thriving regional hub is renowned for its gold mining history. In fact, Ballarat is located in the heart of the Goldfields, an area known for its heritage towns, stunning and diverse landscapes, delicious food and tourism.

Don't miss a trip to the Art Gallery of Ballarat to see an intriguing exhibition, and check out the Heritage Festival in May to learn about the city's historic roots.



2 BENDIGO □

153 km from MEL

An iconic gold rush town with a strong connection to its history and heritage, Bendigo plays host to some of Australia's leading educational institutions, making it a top regional destination for international students.

In the town centre, you'll find yourself surrounded by grand heritage buildings, manicured parks and wide, tree-lined streets. While you're there, make sure you take one of the wonderful tours aboard the beautiful vintage trams.

Bendigo is also full of arts and culture. Visit the Golden Dragon Museum to learn about the area's Chinese heritage, or get along to the Easter Festival in May to soak up entertainment, market stalls, fireworks and dragon dancers.



1. Sovereign Hill, Ballarat 2. Pall Mall, Bendigo

3 CHURCHILL AND SURROUNDS □ 161 km from MEL

Churchill is located amongst the sweeping plains of Victoria's Gippsland region, home to many beautiful beaches, magnificent national parks and quaint towns.

Federation University is located in Churchill, offering international students state-of-the-art learning facilities and accommodation. It boasts a large multicultural community, making it an ideal place to make friends and explore.



Just a 20 minute drive from Churchill, you'll discover busy, historic towns like Moe, Morwell and Traralgon, where you can get in some retail therapy, hit the cinema for the latest flicks or check out unique arts spaces like Old Gipps town Heritage Park and Latrobe Regional Gallery.

If you're feeling adventurous, take a weekend trip to Wilsons Promontory National Park for swimming and hiking—the beaches are so pristine, you'll have to see them to believe it.

4 GEELONG □ 73 km from MEL

Geelong is Victoria's second-largest city and is conveniently located just an hour away from Melbourne. Home to leading educational institutions, affordable living and an enviable beachside lifestyle, there's so much to love about this flourishing spot.

If you enjoy getting active, Geelong is the place to be. Here, you'll find some of Victoria's best surf beaches, as well as a lively waterfront precinct full of restaurants, cafés, entertainment and public spaces. Don't miss your chance to attend Pako Festa, Victoria's largest annual celebration of multiculturalism.



Students in Geelong also have access to The Lounge, International Student Centre—a vibrant community space designed to foster cultural exchange and connection. Here, international students can study, hang out with new friends, and enjoy a free, healthy hot meal.

5 MILDURA □ 542 km from MEL

Dreaming of the iconic red outback? Mildura is the place to see it. Located on the banks of the Murray River, at the edge of the aptly named Big Desert, this is the perfect spot for your authentic Aussie adventure as an international student.

Pay a visit to the breathtaking heritage-listed Mungo National Park, where humans have walked for over 40,000 years. Check out the nearby Australian Inland Botanic Gardens, where you can see stunning native and exotic plants.



Make sure you check out the thriving local cultural and arts scene, too. In particular, this is a top spot for music lovers, hosting festivals like the Mildura Wentworth Country Music Festival and Red Hot Summer, featuring both national and international acts.

6 SHEPPARTON □

191 km from MEL

Located in the heart of the Goulburn Valley, Shepparton offers international students a tranquil lifestyle full of fresh air and country charm.

Goulburn Valley is a thriving agricultural area known particularly for its fruit and dairy production. Shepparton boasts some of Victoria's best local produce, which you can enjoy at any of the city's vibrant restaurants and wineries. In short, Shepparton is a paradise for lovers of good food.

There's also no shortage of awesome cultural spots, such as the Shepparton Art Gallery, the Museum of Vehicle Evolution and the Bangerang Cultural Centre, which showcases Aboriginal art and artefacts.

**7 WARRNAMBOOL** □

258 km from MEL

Cool, carefree and progressive, it's not hard to see why Warrnambool is the destination of choice for many international students.

Located along the world-famous Great Ocean Road, living here means having natural wonders right on your doorstep. This includes the breathtaking Twelve Apostles and the lush rainforests of Great Otway National Park, both of which are located less than two hours away by car.



If that's not enough, Warrnambool also has a Deakin University campus, which offers awesome facilities like gyms, sports centres and on-site student accommodation. With all this in mind, it's no surprise Warrnambool is a popular choice for international students from all around the world.

TO LEARN MORE, CHECK OUT INSIDER GUIDES REGIONAL VICTORIA CITIES:

Ballarat



Geelong



Mildura




6. Moooving Art, Shepparton 7. Lady Bay, Warrnambool

EVENT CALENDAR

INTERNATIONAL COMEDY FESTIVAL

Widely considered one of Australia's best comedy festivals, the Melbourne International Comedy Festival is a must-see. Laugh the night away as you watch the sets of world-famous comedians from around the world.

comedyfestival.com.au 

MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL (MIFF)

Continuously running since 1952, MIFF is one of the world's oldest film festivals.

miff.com.au 

MELBOURNE WRITERS' FESTIVAL

Writers from across the planet unite in Melbourne for this annual festival. A celebration of all things literature, the event fosters critical and creative thinking alike.

mwf.com.au 

ROYAL MELBOURNE SHOW

The Melbourne Royal Show is Victoria's largest showcase of agriculture. Featuring food stalls, fun entertainment, animal precincts and many other activities, it's the perfect way to spend a sunny day.

royalshow.com.au 

AFL GRAND FINAL

There is no bigger day on Australia's sporting calendar! Traditionally held at the MCG on the last Saturday in September, the Australian Rules Football final marks the end of the season and brings the city to life for football fans.


afl.com.au 



Above: Melbourne Town Hall hosting the International Comedy Festival

NOW OR NEVER

A showcase of art, ideas, sound, technology, and future thinking, with events taking place in nightlife spots, historic buildings, city streets and more.

nowornever.melbourne.vic.gov.au 

ST KILDA FESTIVAL

Featuring local acts and established artists, this free music festival takes place on the beach. It's the perfect way to start your summer on the right foot!

stkildafestival.com.au 

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

The first tennis Grand Slam tournament of the season, the Australian Open attracts the world's most renowned tennis players to Melbourne.

ausopen.com 

FORMULA 1 AUSTRALIAN GRAND PRIX

Get your heart racing as you watch world-famous racing drivers whip around the Albert Park Grand Prix Circuit.

grandprix.com.au 


RISING

Held under the moonlight, RISING is an annual festival of music, food, art and culture. Held annually in June, the event features ample entertainment, from visual art installations to live music performances and everything in between. The festival typically features free and ticketed events, making it perfect for every budget.

rising.melbourne 

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

On Christmas Eve each year you can join thousands of others at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl for Christmas carols and to celebrate the festive season.

carols.visionaustralia.org 

LUNAR NEW YEAR

Melbourne's Lunar New Year celebrations attract tens of thousands of people every year. Here you can enjoy an incredible array of food, music, art and culture of Melbourne's Asian communities.


MIDSUMMA FESTIVAL

Celebrating the LGBTQIA+ communities since 1988, Midsumma Festival proudly presents over 200 events showcasing queer culture.

midsumma.org.au 

MULTICULTURAL FILM FESTIVAL

Celebrate multiculturalism through short films which explore stories of cultural diversity and Australia's unique community.

multiculturalcommission.vic.gov.au/multicultural-film-festival 

MELBOURNE FRINGE FESTIVAL

At the Melbourne Fringe Festival, you can enjoy cutting-edge art exhibits of all kinds. With events and activities scattered across the city, there's something for everyone.

melbournefringe.com.au 

ALWAYS LIVE

This Victoria-wide celebration of contemporary live music across 17 days will guarantee you will create memorable music moments.

alwayslive.com.au 

MOOMBA FESTIVAL

Moomba is an annual festival that usually takes place on Labour Day weekend. With carnival rides, live performances and interactive activities, this free festival is full of fun.

moomba.melbourne.vic.gov.au 

EVERYDAY HEROES

The international student journey isn't about surviving - it's about thriving. Events and programs to make your transition to living and studying in Victoria as smooth as possible. From trivia nights to scavenger hunts, Everyday Heroes is the perfect place to learn local tips, make new friends and start your journey on the right foot.

studymelbourne.vic.gov.au/events 




ADVENTURE

CAMPING

There are plenty of reasons why you should consider camping for a weekend adventure in Australia. Camping allows you to connect with nature, new friends and the great Australian outdoors - not to mention it's a great stress reliever from your studies!

Grampians National Park is a popular camping spot about three hours out of Melbourne, known for its sandstone mountains, beautiful flora and wildlife. Spend the day hiking and finish the night with a barbeque while stargazing.

Cumberland River is also lined with a number of great campsites right on the river's edge. Camping along this body of water, which is surrounded by lush rainforest, is like a trip to paradise.

To find more of the best camping sites and plenty of resources for beginners, head to the Parks Victoria website, parks.vic.gov.au 


BEACHES

If there's one thing Australia is internationally famous for, it's our beaches, and Victoria is no exception. Melbourne's coastline is gifted with beautiful sandy shores and turquoise waters.

Brighton Beach is one of the city's most-loved beaches, with 82 charming multi-

coloured bathing boxes lining the foreshore. Swimmers, sunbathers and surfers alike flock here during the summer months. The buzzing district of St Kilda is also home to a stunning beach with breathtaking views of the ocean and city skyline. With plenty of water-based activities, shopping and dining options, St Kilda is perfect for an all-in-one Melbourne experience.

Most of Melbourne's beaches are easily accessible by public transport. Be sure to research routes and schedules to make your journey easier. If you're up for a road trip, it's definitely worth venturing over to the rugged surf beaches along Great Ocean Road or the protected tranquil bays of the Mornington Peninsula. Both of these trips are possible via public transport - it will just take a bit of extra planning.

studymelbourne.vic.gov.au/living-here/your-health-and-safety/your-safety 

WATER SAFETY

If you're planning a day out by the water, such as the beach, a river or lake, here's your guide to staying safe:

- Don't overestimate your swimming abilities. If you're not a confident swimmer, stay out of the water.
- Don't go swimming alone - grab a couple of friends.
- Don't dive into water, you may overestimate the depth and this can have very serious consequences.
- Swim between the yellow and red flags on patrolled beaches. This is the monitored spot that's been deemed safest for swimming.
- If you ever find yourself in trouble while swimming at the beach, try to stay calm and raise your hands to show that you need help.

For more information on water safety, see Royal Lifesaving Australia. royallifesaving.com.au 

Top: Grampians Peaks Trails

ACTIVITIES CHECKLIST

MURDER MYSTERY AT THE OLD MELBOURNE GAOL

The Old Melbourne Gaol is already an interesting place to visit, but to add a challenge to your trip there, try the Cluedo Experience. This immersive puzzle game will have you searching the Gaol's darkest corners for clues to solve a (fictional!) murder.

oldmelbournegaol.com.au 🔍

VIRTUAL REALITY

Zero Latency VR boasts the world's best free-roam virtual reality experience. With three locations in Melbourne, you can easily experience this immersive technology for yourself.

zerolatencyvr.com 🔍

INLAND SURFING

Have you always wanted to learn to surf but haven't had the confidence to face the waves? Head to URBNSURF, the inland surf park that offers beginner lessons. You'll learn from friendly instructors who will have you riding the waves in no time!

urbnsurf.com 🔍

BOUNCE INC.

Searching for the perfect mix of adrenaline and childlike fun? With several locations in Melbourne's outer suburbs and Geelong, this BOUNCE INC. is a funhouse for people of all ages. Jump on the trampolines, reach new heights on the rock-climbing walls or test your balance on the aerial adventure course - BOUNCE has it all!

bounceinc.com.au 🔍

ESCAPE ROOMS

Escape rooms are fun ways to test your problem-solving skills and engage in team bonding. Try the Escape Room Melbourne (which was Australia's first-ever live puzzle game!) or Rush Escape Room. You'll find multiple locations across the city.

escaperoom.com.au 🔍

rushescapegame.com.au 🔍

KAYAKING

For those who are drawn to water, the Yarra River system caters to a range of kayaking abilities. There are many different companies who offer kayaking experiences, including everything from twilight tours to whitewater kayaking.

AXE THROWING

Get competitive with a round of axe throwing. There are a few different venues offering this unique sport around Melbourne and Victoria, including MANIAX and Lumber Punks.

maniaux.com.au 🔍

lumberpunks.com 🔍

THE SMASH ROOM

Ready to relieve some stress? The Smash Room is perfect for you. Here, you can (safely) smash everything from TVs to a car! Plus, if you have old crockery or electronic equipment, you can donate them to be used in the smash rooms.

thesmashroom.com.au 🔍



Above: Kayaking at night on the Yarra River

CULTURE

LIVE MUSIC

HOTEL ESPLANADE, ST KILDA

Locally known as 'The Espy', budding musicians can step on stage every Tuesday for the Open Mic Night. More comfortable in the audience? No stress! Drop by on Thursdays for free shows by local musicians.

THE TOFF IN TOWN, BRUNSWICK

The Toff is a central and cosy late-night bar with a huge variety of live music and DJs that will have you grooving all night.

THE WORKERS CLUB, FITZROY

Close to RMIT and the University of Melbourne, this treasured venue has a fantastic line-up of music. Stop by on Mondays for sweet drink deals (including \$2 pots of beer) and free music.

BRUNSWICK MUSIC FESTIVAL, MELBOURNE

Every March, you can watch the streets of Brunswick transform for this 10-day musical extravaganza. Make sure you check out the lively Sydney Road Street Party - it's not to be missed!

CHERRY BAR, MELBOURNE

This adored rock 'n' roll venue showcases local and international talent. It's the perfect spot for a drink and a dance.

SIDNEY MYER MUSIC BOWL, MELBOURNE

This outdoor performance space hosts some of Melbourne's premier live music with breathtaking city views. In February, try to catch one of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra's select free concerts.

MUSEUMS

IMMIGRATION MUSEUM

Through informative and interactive displays, explore the history and personal stories of immigration in Australia. This museum tackles questions of belonging, nationhood and identity. It also hosts events, film screenings and cultural festivals.

MELBOURNE MUSEUM

Marvel at prehistoric skeletons or uncover the secrets of bug life. Melbourne Museum is home to a permanent collection of fascinating artefacts, as well as special exhibits on loan from other museums around the globe. Entry is free for students.

AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR THE MOVING IMAGE (ACMI)

Dedicated to all things screen culture, ACMI is a must-visit attraction for movie buffs, TV fanatics and video gamers alike. Explore the past, present and future of screen media through a variety of exhibitions, screenings and festivals held throughout the year. General entry to ACMI is free, though some special exhibitions may require a paid ticket.

ISLAMIC MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA

Explore the heritage, arts and culture of Australia's Muslim community. The not-for-profit Islamic Museum of Australia is located in Thornbury, and student tickets cost \$10.

AUSTRALIAN SPORTS MUSEUM

At the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG), you'll find this interactive museum, which showcases all facets of Australia's sporting history. Learn about cricket, AFL or the Olympic Games. You can even take a behind-the-scenes tour of the iconic MCG while you're there!

ART GALLERIES

HEIDE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

An outstanding cultural institution, Heide is located in the suburb of Bulleen. This spacious gallery has a sculpture park, innovative contemporary exhibits, workshops.

AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART

Centrally located in Melbourne's Arts Precinct, you'll find modern exhibitions and programs that challenge and inspire. Entry is free for all guests.

THE LUME MELBOURNE

At South Wharf, The Lume is the first permanent digital art gallery in Australia. This unique gallery uses light, scent and sound to immerse visitors inside some of the world's most celebrated artworks.

THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA

Called the 'NGV' by locals, this multifaceted art gallery boasts world-class exhibitions of famous artists, beautiful gardens and an expansive permanent collection to explore.

THEATRES

MALTHOUSE THEATRE

In a converted Victorian-era storehouse, you'll find one of the best interdisciplinary theatre in Melbourne. Producing comedy, drama and contemporary performances, the Malthouse Theatre is nestled in the Arts Precinct.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE

This heritage theatre has hosted some of the world's most famous productions, including *Les Miserables*, *Chicago*, *Mamma Mia!* and more. Head to Melbourne's bustling East End Theatre District to enjoy some pre-show drinks before visiting the theatre.

PRINCESS THEATRE

Also in the East End Theatre District, Princess Theatre is the oldest surviving entertainment venue in mainland Australia. The beautiful venue shows plays and performances of all kinds, so there's something for everyone here.

CINEMA

For a balmy evening under the stars, Moonlight Cinema at the Royal Botanic Gardens is an outdoor cinema that plays old favourites and new blockbusters during the summer months. Tickets start at \$25, and you'll find food trucks available to enjoy. In Hawthorn, Lido on The Roof is another open-air cinema worth visiting, with a gorgeous view over the suburb. This rooftop cinema plays cult classics, arthouse masterpieces and new release films.

For great discounts on movie tickets, head to Palace Cinemas. They offer \$12 tickets on Tuesdays and have several locations around Melbourne. HOYTS Cinemas also provides regular discounts for students. Cinema Nova in Carlton offers discounted tickets on Mondays (\$7 for shows before 4pm and \$10 for shows after 4pm).

MELBOURNE FOOD CHECKLIST

If you consider yourself a foodie, then you'll love Melbourne. Find out from fellow international students which foods you simply can't miss.

KANGAROO MEAT

Where to find it:

Believe it or not, Australian grocery stores, including the most popular shops like Coles and Woolworths, stock kangaroo meat. Kangaroo meat is very lean, nutritious, completely free-range and a sustainable protein option. Some restaurants also serve it in their dishes, so if you're willing to try it, you'll have plenty of opportunities to do so!

MEAT PIES & SAUSAGE ROLLS

Where to find it:

You can find classic Australian meat pies and sausage rolls at nearly every grocery store or bakery you visit. Alternatively, you'll find more gourmet meat pies on the menu at many restaurants and pubs.

VEGEMITE

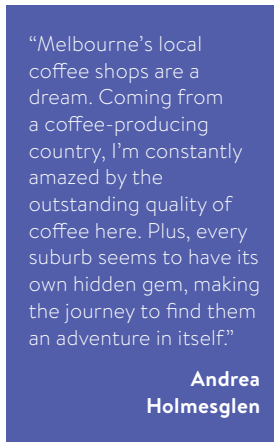
Where to find it:

A beloved Australian spread, Vegemite can be found in every Australian grocery store. Not sure you want to commit to buying a full jar? Next time you go for breakfast at a café, ask for Vegemite on your toast.



"When I'm craving momo (a delicious Nepalese dumpling that you absolutely must try), I head straight to Old Durbar on Flinders Street. The flavors here are authentic and reminiscent of Nepal's culinary heritage."

Nischal
Central Queensland University
 @the.nischalniroula
 LinkedIn: in/thenischalniroula/



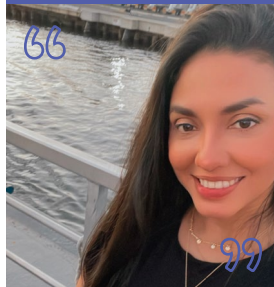
"Melbourne's local coffee shops are a dream. Coming from a coffee-producing country, I'm constantly amazed by the outstanding quality of coffee here. Plus, every suburb seems to have its own hidden gem, making the journey to find them an adventure in itself."

Andrea
Holmesglen



"As a vegan, I would like to recommend my favourite vegan restaurants: Patsy's Melbourne (an Italian restaurant), The Vegie Bar (in Fitzroy) and Vegie Mum (a Chinese restaurant)."

Yuhan
University of Melbourne
 LinkedIn: in/yuhan-qiao-joanna/



TWISTIES:

An iconic Aussie snack for over 50 years! Our personal favourite? The cheese flavour!

**SHAPES:**

Savoury biscuits available in a huge range of flavours, including Original Barbeque, Crimp Chicken and Pizza!

**MINTIES:**

Fresh, chewy sweetness.

**CARAMELLO KOALA:**

Caramel, chocolate... What more could you want?

**VEGEMITE:**

With this salty spread, a little goes a long way. Add a thin layer of butter and a thin layer of Vegemite to your toast for a flavour explosion.

**FAIRY BREAD:**

Sliced white bread + sprinkles + butter = fairy bread.

**TIM TAM:**

The ultimate Aussie biscuit (or biccies, in the words of the Australians). Don't forget to try a Tim Tam Slam for the ultimate taste test!

There's no better way to experience a different culture than by sampling their snack selection. Here are some of the most popular Australian treats to get you through those late night study sessions.

AUSSIE SNACKS 101

A place for the all-day bed rave. A place for humans. A place for the all-day bed rave. A place for humans.

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[03:20PM]

ARYAN - 19
STUDYING ENGINEERING
SCAPE RESIDENT
DAY TIME DREAMER

A PLACE FOR HUMANS

At Scape, everything you need is here from day 1. Pick up the keys and you're good to go. Our all-inclusive offer means you don't have to worry about the bills – it's all-in-one. Our amazing staff are here to make sure you've got what you need. From the gym, to gaming spaces, to ski trips and new friends, at Scape there is always something happening – and people making it happen. Let's be real, there's no place like home, but when you've made the leap there's Scape.



SCAN
TO FIND
OUT
MORE

scape
Student Living

YOUR AUSSIE BAKERY GUIDE

Whether you're living in a big city or a regional town, bakeries are a quintessential part of Australian life. They're the perfect place to grab a cheap lunch or a quick snack. Each bakery will usually have its own specialty products and unique offerings, but you're almost guaranteed to find these items on the menu.

1. VEGEMITE SCROLL

If you haven't tried Vegemite yet, these scrolls are a good introduction. Savoury spirals of dough are baked with cheese and a generous helping of salty Vegemite to create the perfect afternoon snack.

3. VANILLA SLICE

Oozy and delicious, this is a treat for anyone with a sweet tooth. With a vanilla slice, you'll find rich vanilla custard sandwiched between puff pastry, and a thin layer of icing or powdered icing sugar on top.

5. LAMINGTON

An Australian classic! Lamingtons consist of sponge cake dipped in chocolate and rolled in desiccated coconut. A good lamington should be light and fluffy.

7. CUSTARD TART

Countries all around the world have their own version of this dessert - this is the Australian one! Eggy vanilla custard is baked into shortcrust pastry and topped with a sprinkle of nutmeg

2. SAUSAGE ROLL

An easy to eat pick-me-up when you're on the go, sausage rolls have tasty sausage meat wrapped in golden puff pastry. Make sure to cover it in a lot of tangy tomato sauce (a.k.a. ketchup).

4. PASTY

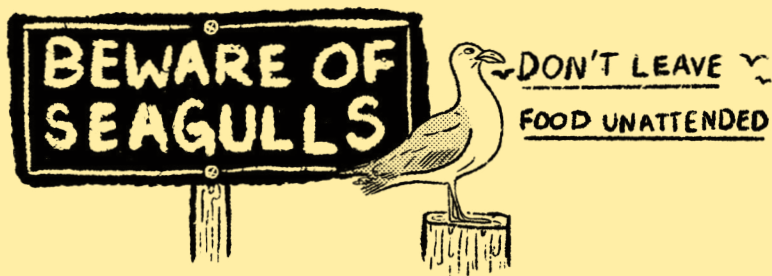
Based on traditional Cornish pasties, you can expect an Australian pasty to have minced meat and an assortment of vegetables (usually things like potato, carrots and peas) inside.

6. PIE

Not to be confused with sweet fruit pies, these are available in a wide range of savoury flavours with a variety of meat and vegetable fillings. The most iconic is a classic 'meat pie', with golden pastry full of beef mince and gravy.

8. FINGER BUN

A staple for primary school students in Australia - but enjoyed by people all ages - finger buns are soft buns (sometimes containing dried fruit, like sultanas), topped with icing and covered in coconut or sprinkles.





TRAVEL

Get out of the city to explore some of the best natural beauty and quaint towns Australia has to offer. Here's our guide to the best travel spots around Victoria.

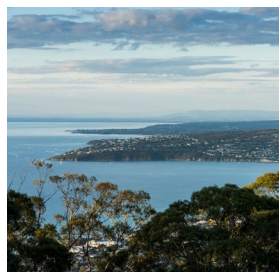


SHORT TRIPS

1 MORNINGTON PENINSULA

76 km from MEL

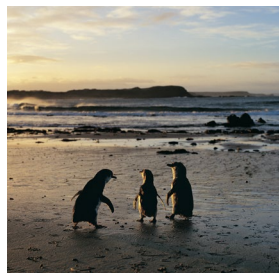
Here you'll visit dreamy beaches, lovely seaside towns and rolling vineyards. Spend the day floating in geothermal pools at the Peninsula Hot Springs or sampling your way around the many wineries, distilleries and breweries in the area. You can also check out the Cape Schanck Lighthouse Reserve for comfortable walking paths with views of coastal scenery.



2 PHILLIP ISLAND

141 km from MEL

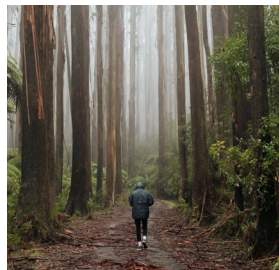
South of Melbourne, Phillip Island's unique wildlife makes it a popular holiday destination. Watch as penguins waddle back to their burrows and see colonies of Australian fur seals offshore. In certain seasons, you might even spot migrating whales. There is a strong surf culture on the island, so catch a wave with surfing lessons. Later, replenish your energy with some treats at the Phillip Island Chocolate Factory.



3 YARRA VALLEY

55 km from MEL

This peaceful region boasts over 70 wineries, friendly townships and beautiful forests. For an unforgettable morning, float over misty vineyards in a hot air balloon at sunrise. You can also explore the magical Redwood Forest near Warburton or drive through the towering mountain ash along Black Spur. If you're an animal lover, spend the afternoon at Healesville Sanctuary, where you can meet adorable Australian animals.



1: Arthurs Seat, Mornington Peninsula · 2: Murray River, Mildura · 3: Black Spur, Yarra Valley

LONG TRIPS

4 MOUNT BULLER/MOUNT HOTHAM 257 km from MEL

Come wintertime, Victoria's Alpine region is the place to be. Mount Buller provides 300 hectares of snowy terrain to explore. A bit further northeast is Mount Hotham. Here you can enjoy the bustling village, equipped with chalets, cafés, spa facilities and entertainment. Both mountains have snow sports and slopes for all abilities, including skiing, snowboarding, tobogganing and snowshoeing. On Mount Hotham, you can even try dog sledding!



5 THE MURRAY RIVER 343 km from MEL

One of the most iconic landmarks in Victoria is the Murray River, which happens to be Australia's longest river. Along its length, you'll find sparkling waters, outdoor activities, incredible eateries and much more. The Murray also plays host to several events throughout the year, including markets and live music performances.



6 GREAT OCEAN ROAD 246 km from MEL

The Great Ocean Road is a holiday favourite for locals and travellers alike. Give yourself plenty of time to enjoy charming towns and sensational views. With plenty of beaches and coastal towns along the way, there's a scenic stop around every corner. Be sure to see the Twelve Apostles' impressive limestone towers emerging from the rough waters and visit Loch Ard Gorge for more awe-inspiring natural beauty.



HEAD ONLINE

For more information on trips around Victoria, head to:

visitvictoria.com 

If you're heading on a camping trip, visit the Parks Victoria website. Here you'll find a range of different experiences, from hiking to fishing, as well as all the best spots to camp.

parks.vic.gov.au 



4: Mt Buller summit · 5: Phillip Island Nature Park, Penguin Reserve · 6: Twelve Apostles

KEY CONTACTS

STAY IN TOUCH WITH STUDY MELBOURNE



Study Melbourne Hub provides dedicated programs and services for international students

- Visit the Hub at 17 Hardware Lane, Melbourne
- Subscribe to our monthly student newsletter

- Follow us on Instagram, LinkedIn, WeChat and Facebook

Contact the Study Melbourne Hub Victoria at info@studymelbourne.vic.gov.au or call on 1800 056 449

studymelbourne.vic.gov.au

CONTACT NAME	WHEN WOULD I USE THIS SERVICE?	CONTACT DETAILS
Australian Consumer Law	Understand your legal rights in regards to shopping or purchasing goods or services.	consumerlaw.gov.au
Australian Human Rights Commission	If you feel you are being treated unfairly because of your race, descent, colour or ethnic/national origin then make a complaint to the Australian Human Rights Commission.	humanrights.gov.au
Australian Taxation Office	Contact them to arrange a Tax File Number or learn more about payments made to you while you study here.	ato.gov.au
Beyond Blue	A free counselling service that you can contact if you are feeling depressed or anxious.	1300 224 636 beyondblue.org.au
Centre for Culture, Ethnicity and Health	For free and confidential support, information about protection from HIV/AIDS, hepatitis and other sexually transmitted diseases.	9418 9929 ceh.org.au
Commonwealth Ombudsman	An independent agency that investigates complaints that international students have with private education providers.	1300 362 072 ombudsman.gov.au

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@InsiderStudentGuides



@insiderguides

CONTACT NAME	WHEN WOULD I USE THIS SERVICE?	CONTACT DETAILS
Consumer Affairs Victoria	If you require detailed information about your rights regarding all kinds of consumer affairs, including renting.	1300 55 81 81 consumer.vic.gov.au 
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (for Embassies)	If you require help from your country's embassy within Australia.	dfat.gov.au 
Department of Home Affairs	This government department handles visa enquiries and issues.	homeaffairs.gov.au 
The Drum - Youth Services, Drummond Street Relationship Centre	For a comprehensive mix of youth programs and services for young people aged 12-25.	9663 6733 thedrum.ds.org.au 
Fair Work Ombudsman	If you require assistance understanding your workplace rights and responsibilities.	fairwork.gov.au 
Frontyard Integrated Youth Services	Frontyard aims to address the physical, social, and emotional needs of young people, up to the age of 25, who spend time in the Melbourne CBD.	9977 0077 mcm.org.au 
healthdirect Australia	Outside of GP consultation hours their trained staff can help you treat non-urgent illnesses.	1800 022 222 healthdirect.gov.au 
headspace	For mental health support and counselling, with locations across Victoria.	headspace.org.au 
Lifeline	If you need someone to talk to about your mental health, this resource is a crisis support hotline.	13 11 14 lifeline.org.au 
Melbourne Sexual Health Centre	To talk about sexual health symptoms and receive advice.	9341 6200 mshc.org.au 
Multicultural Centre for Women's Health	Free health education workshops and assistance with locating services for Immigrant and Refugee Women.	9418 0999 mcwh.com.au 
Victorian Pride Centre	A modern meeting place and advocacy organisation for LGBTQIA+ groups and individuals.	(03) 7035 3592 pridecentre.org.au 

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